

DESERT STAR

Andy King reviews
Tristar's diminutive
Panzer I

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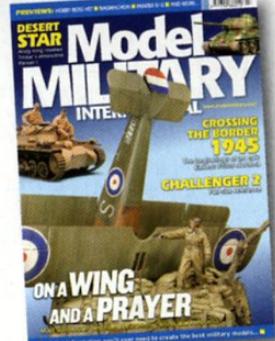
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CROMWELL'S LATEST

Here are some shots of the master for Cromwell's FV 432 British post-war APC. By the time you read this, the model should be on sale, or if not, in the very near future. For more info check out www.cromwellmodels.com



GASO.LINE

Gaso.Line have been keeping busy over Christmas and the New Year producing some excellent new 1:48 vehicles, figure sets and conversions. Here are the latest...

GAS50368 German tank hunters with Hauler Panzerschrecks

GAS50190 Italian Flamethrowing tank L 3/35

GAS48058 Conversion

Kubelwagen radio car type 821

GAS48059 Conversion Motor for Kubelwagen with Cold Weather Starter for Panther

GAS50371 Panzergrenadiers StuG. III 1943-45 set No.1

GAS50372 Panzergrenadiers StuG.III Winter 1943-45 set No.2

GAS48060 Conversion

Sd.Kfz.250/10 37mm Pak36

For more info go to

www.quarter-kit.com, Gaso.line products are stocked in the UK by

www.parabellum.co.uk and www.modelsforsale.com



WEE FRIENDS

Friendship Models are pleased to announce 'Wee Friends'. These figures are the excellent 1:35 scale series originally designed and produced by Pete Morton and previously released under his own Jakrei label. Friendship Models have purchased the full range including the unreleased figures (20 in all). These will now be available under the 'Wee Friends' label. Production of the figures will continue in white metal initially, with resin sets on the way later in the year.

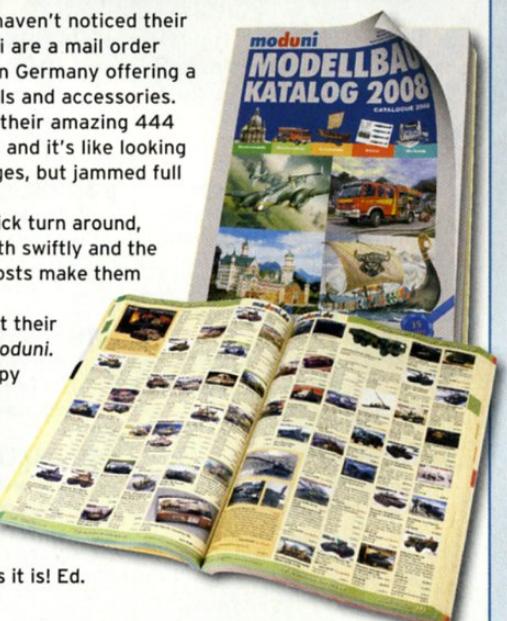
www.friendshipmodels.com

MODUNI'S YELLOW PAGES

For those of you who haven't noticed their adverts in MMI, Moduni are a mail order model supplier based in Germany offering a huge range of kits, tools and accessories. We have just received their amazing 444 page colour catalogue, and it's like looking through the yellow pages, but jammed full of product photos!

Moduni offer a very quick turn around, the orders are dealt with swiftly and the inexpensive shipping costs make them very competitive.

For more info check out their advert or go to www.moduni.com Once you get a copy of the huge catalogue I guarantee you will sit down, start thumbing through it and will instantly start writing a shopping list, I did, as if I don't have enough to build as it is! Ed.



PLUS MODELS LATEST

Plus Models have made a name for themselves making some novel and unique vehicles and diorama accessories. This month we have some great figure sets and a 'wooden outhouse loo', (which have great diorama potential), as well as a couple of very nice vehicle models - a Stoewer Kfz.4 armed with twin MG-34 anti-aircraft machine guns and a great looking Italian SPA-39 light lorry. Both, we're sure, will prove to be very popular. Plus Models are distributed in the UK by Creative Models.

PM25258 Italian SPA-39 light lorry
PM35263 Wooden toilet
PM35280 Stoewer Kfz.4 A-A vehicle
PM35291 Barrel-organ player
PM35292 Refugees



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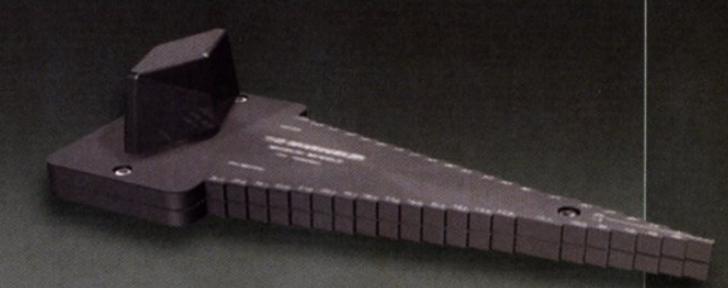
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'KOMMANDEURWAGEN'

Darren Thompson takes a look at Tamiya's latest down sizing, the Steyr type 1500A/01.

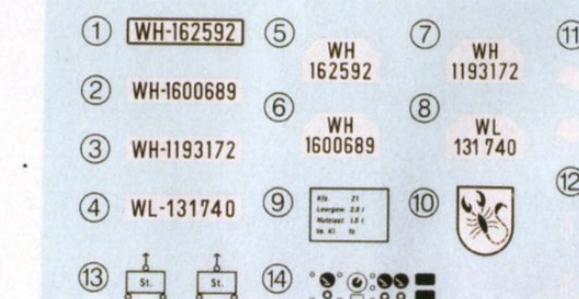
Tamiya's current theme of miniaturising their own 1:35 military kits, we now have a 1:48 version of the Type 1500A Steyr 'Kommandeurwagen', and what a delightful little kit it is too.

With the exception of being built onto a pre-primered, die-cast chassis, it assembles in a very similar manner to its larger cousin, in an albeit simplified manner. The rear leaf-springs are moulded into the die-cast chassis and as such are devoid of any detail, other than the basic shape, but the rest of the underside detail is nicely done. A one-piece transmission, including lower gearbox half, drive-shafts, prop-shafts and rear axle, with differential housing, saves on many small assemblies, as does the one-piece exhaust and manifold system.

The floor pan is also moulded in one large part, with the rear wheel arches included, this is held in place with two self-tapping screws, into the chassis. But from here on, the kit is assembled in the traditional manner. The large rear body and front hood sections are beautifully done, with some delicate engine grilles moulded in-situ. The interior is a fairly basic affair, the driver's controls are adequately fine and the front

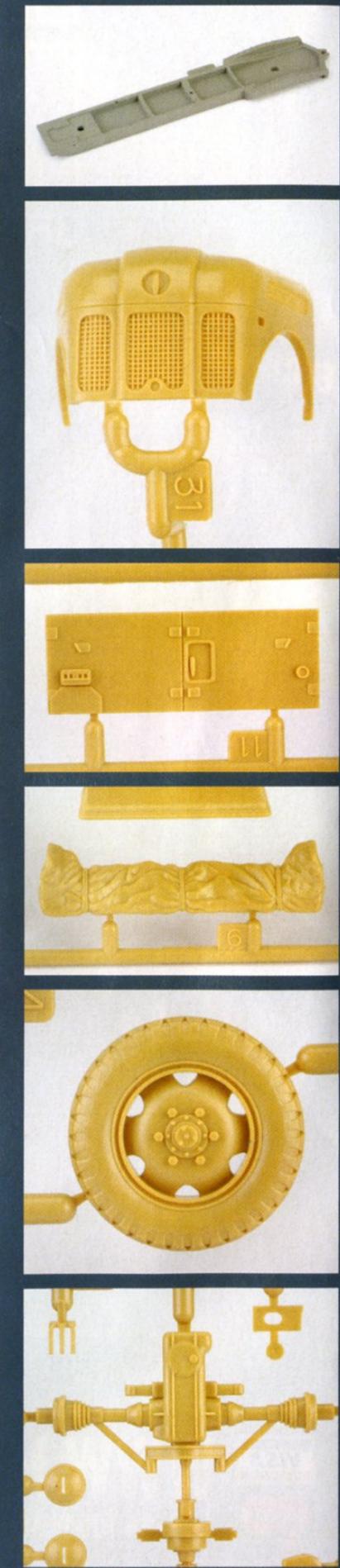
dash-board is supplied in decal form. The split front seats and rear bench seat are also quite plain, lacking the leather-look texture that graces the larger 1:35 version, but in this scale it probably wouldn't be so apparent anyway.

Side doors are moulded in pairs, but with a little work they could no doubt be opened and a choice is given for an enclosed or folded canvas top. Two figures are included, one driver figure, checking his watch and a General, one hand on his hip, the other arm, leaning out of the opened window.



1/48 ドイツ大型軍用乗用車 シュタイヤー 1500A/01
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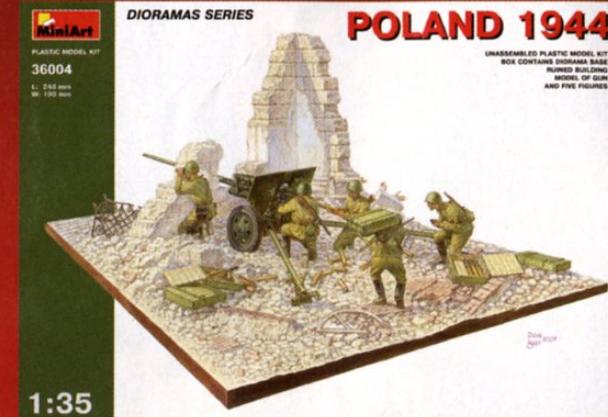


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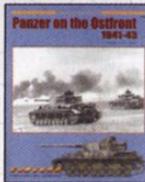


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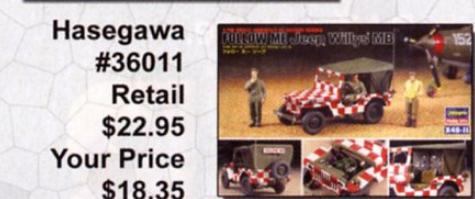
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Andy King reviews Tristar's diminutive Panzer I Ausf.A in DAK service.

DESERT STAR

It's hard to believe that this tiny Panzer 1 tank was the forerunner of all those huge Tigers, Panthers, King Tigers etc., that we all know of, but, they all had to start somewhere and the start was in 1933. The Treaty of Versailles prevented Germany from re-arming after World War 1. However, this did not stop them from rebuilding and training the

armed forces secretly hence the 'official' designations hiding the real purpose of everything from ships to tanks to aeroplanes. Therefore, officially known as a 'Landwirtschaftlicher Schlepper' (Agricultural Tractor), the first Panzer 1 (Ohne Aufbau) was a turreted, tracked, open chassis used to train the new breed of panzer crews.

The Panzer 1A as a tank proper, started production in 1934 and was issued to the new Panzer units in the September of that year. The vehicles first saw action in the Spanish Civil War of 1936, mainly manned with German crews. At the outbreak of World War 2, even though it was only armed with two 7.92mm MG 13s, the Panzer 1A was used in all the early campaigns

(Poland, France, Norway etc.), even seeing service in North Africa up until 1941 after when the type was withdrawn from front-line service. Although redundant as a main battle tank, the Panzer 1A chassis was used for various other vehicles such as the first Flakpanzer, a munitions carrier and even a flame-throwing vehicle.

THE MODEL

Although it's only tiny, the Panzer 1 had quite a character. I was first drawn to the tank many years ago by the original Italeri kit of the Ausf. B variant as it has always fascinated me how delicate it appeared compared to the later great hulking Panzers. Therefore, I was delighted when the Editor asked me to build Tristar's offering.

Tristar's kit depicts the late version. The lower hull is moulded in one piece, etched brass parts are included in the kit for the exhaust screens and the tracks are from Modelkasten. Two very nicely sculpted figures are supplied with a choice of heads depicting the earlier style Panzer beret or later field cap. The markings are limited to either the Polish or North African campaigns so an Afrika Korps vehicle it was going to be as the scope for weathering would be greater than on an overall grey tank.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction starts with the lower hull and suspension and is fairly straight forward although there is a mix up of parts on the leaf springs; A7 should be with A9 and A6 with A8. Also, take care when fitting the road wheels at this stage as there are raised lumps on the spokes that should face outwards. Unlike my earlier article about Tristar's Flak Panzer, I fixed the suspension, drive sprockets etc., to the lower hull as the supplied Modelkasten tracks would be fitted after painting.

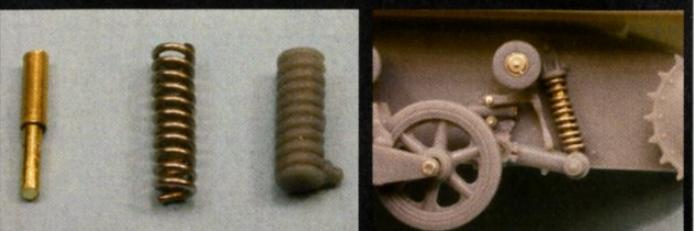
I wasn't happy with the moulded springs on the front axles so I replaced them with 15 amp fuse wire wound round some brass tube. I also made shock absorbers out of brass tube and placed them within the new springs. Some etched

parts from the Aber set were used here although I didn't replace the track tensioners on the rear axles as these assemblies are fragile enough as it is.

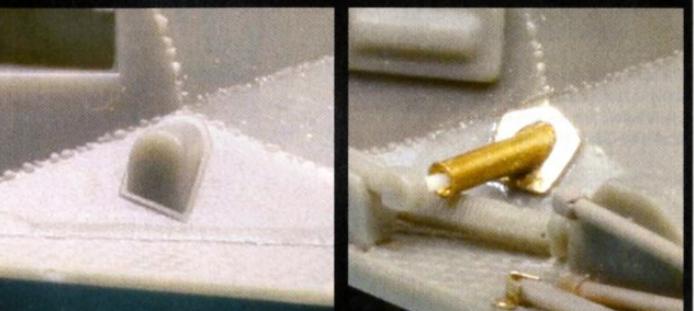
UPPER HULL

The upper hull was fixed into place as the only interior detailing I was planning was going to be in the turret; the main access hatch on the hull side was going to be closed although on a future model I may get Tristar's interior set for the Panzer 1. The rest of the build was as per kit instructions but using the Aber etch set to replace and add various details. Also note that when fitting the vision ports on the hull there is no mention in the instructions of the need to glue part A23 onto the right of the hull. Only by using reference photos did I discover this after spending an hour or so wondering what covered the hole in the hull.

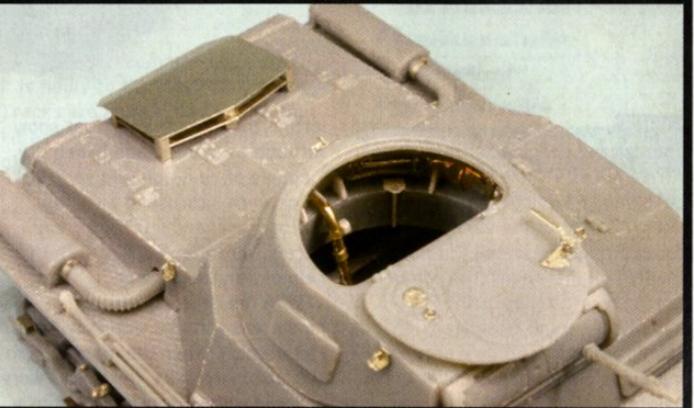
I chose to leave the kit supplied engine deck cooling louvres in place as on an earlier model of mine I had a heck of a job fitting etch replacements without bending them; besides, there is a plate that covers this area. Another small detail was the base of the aerial. Tristar have moulded a lump where the aerial joins the hull. However, on the real vehicle it goes through the hull, so I carved away the lump then drilled a 2mm diameter hole to accept a short length of brass tube. Part 18a from the Aber set was fixed into place first then the brass tube. ▶



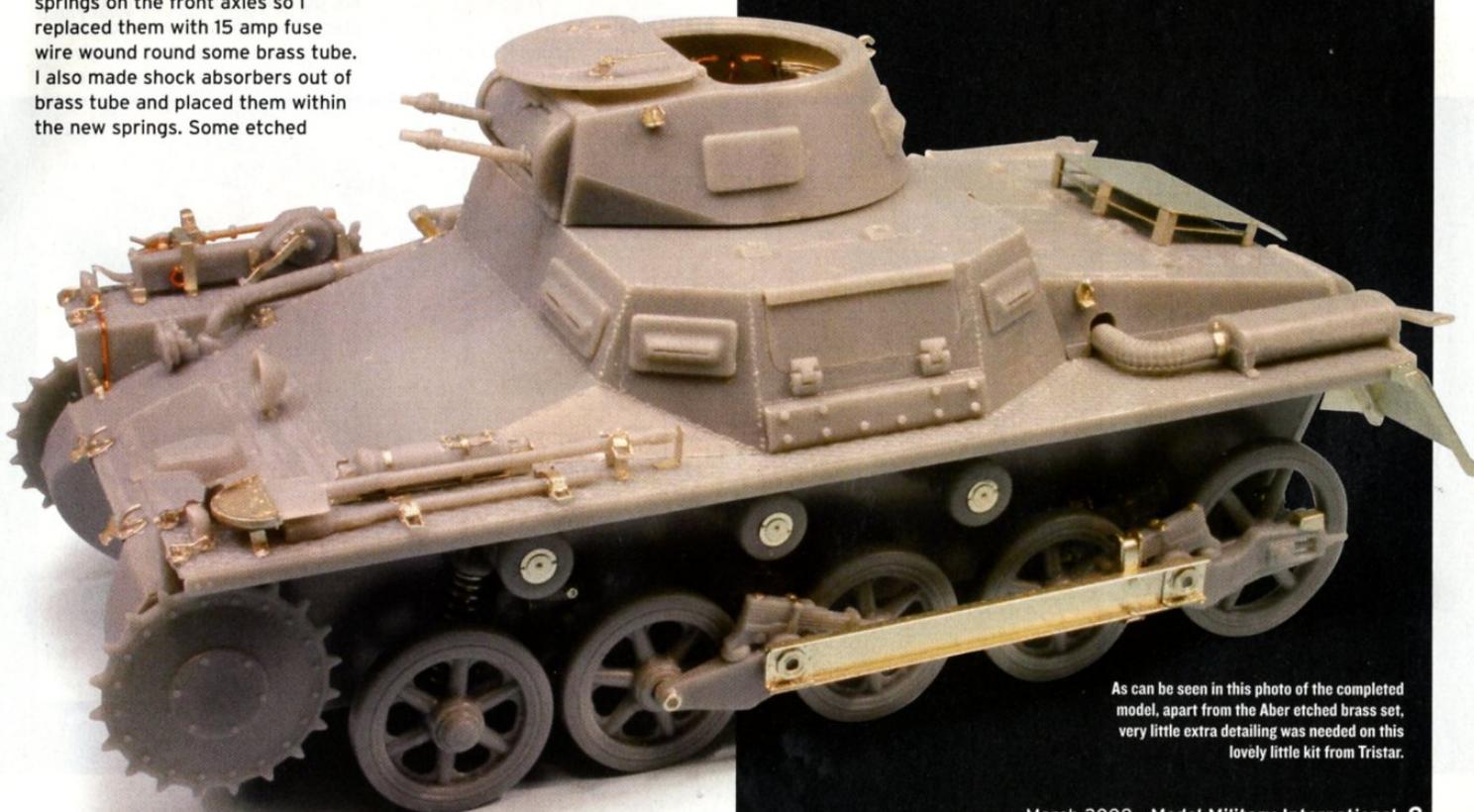
The kit suspension's shock absorbers were replaced with better detailed items, scratchbuilt by the author using a real spring, brass tube and rod. As can be seen, the finished item looks much better.



The mounting point for the aerial was corrected using a combination of plastic rod, brass tube and a part from the Aber etched brass detail set.



The parts supplied in the Aber set really do add that extra finesse, even to a kit as good as Tristar's Panzer 1. Note the extra detailing added to the turret interior from fuse wire and plastic card.



As can be seen in this photo of the completed model, apart from the Aber etched brass set, very little extra detailing was needed on this lovely little kit from Tristar.



The model was washed in warm soapy water to remove dust and greasy finger prints before priming with Games Workshop Chaos Black aerosol.



PAINTING

I had already decided earlier on an Afrika Korps vehicle but the base coat was still going to be Panzer Grey. As a lot of the vehicles came straight from the European theatre of operations, the Afrika Corps Desert Yellow paint (or initially just mud) was often applied roughly over the original grey with markings either masked over or painted around.

After washing the model to get rid of dust and grease and leaving it to dry, it was primed with Games Workshop Chaos Black including the tracks. Tamiya XF-64 German Grey was then sprayed overall,

letting the black primer coat show through as a pre-shade. When dry, a couple of coats of Tamiya X-22 Clear were airbrushed over the entire model and left to dry, the decals were then applied with the help of Johnsons Klear.

With the decals in place, the model was sprayed with Poly Scale Flat varnish. When the matt varnish was completely dry, the decals were covered with Winsor and Newton's Masking Solution as it is a lot easier to remove than other masking fluids. The model was then sprayed with XF-59 Desert Yellow; however, I left some areas in the Panzer Grey such as behind the road wheels and

under the running boards. Areas of high wear such as the running gear, engine deck, crew entry points etc. got a light spray of Desert Yellow. To add further highlight, a couple of drops of XF-2 White were added to the Desert Yellow and sprayed in the centre of panels.

The masks were removed from the markings, the tyres painted dark grey and then it was onto everybody's favourite part of modelling in the handily titled next paragraph.

WEATHERING

To begin with, I added lots of paint chips using Vallejo German Grey,

eventually dry brushing it around the high wear areas mentioned above. A well thinned light coat of XF-55 Deck Tan was sprayed on the model, and then a mix of Mig Pigments (Beach Sand, Light Dust, European Earth) was brushed overall and fixed with PVA glue to build up the dusty look. A heavier mix was applied to the tracks and running gear. To make it look even dustier, I went over the entire model with the Mig Powder mix used earlier straight from the pot, not using any solvent to fix it in place. The exhausts were covered with various pastel chalks to give a rusty look to them. Finally the



Archer dry transfer decals were used for the turret numbers, and the crosses came from Dragon's Panzer IB. The Afrika Korps palms are from the kit.



The decals were masked off before airbrushing on Tamiya Desert Yellow XF-59.



Areas of high wear and paint chips were applied by drybrushing on Vallejo German Grey acrylic.

"I wasn't happy with the moulded springs on the front axles so I replaced them"

Following the black primer coat, Tamiya German Grey XF-63 was airbrushed on. This was followed by a couple of coats of Tamiya Clear gloss in preparation for decal application.



To finish the weathering a light coat of Tamiya Deck Tan XF-55 was misted over the entire model to give the model a nice dusty feel.

figures were taken from a Tristar set, the flesh areas painted in oils and uniforms in Vallejo acrylics. The jerry cans are of the early style and came from the Academy Tank Accessory set and the rack was made from plastic strip. The spare track links were borrowed from a Dragon Panzer 1B. The spare wheel that I found in the spares box actually came from the old Italeri kit (I knew it would come in useful one day), and under a coat of paint and dust doesn't look too out of place. To cover the headlight, I used a 'captured' British helmet as in this kit there are no clear parts and I didn't have any MV lenses to hand.

CONCLUSION
Tristar's Panzer I is a lovely little model and goes together quite well. The kit appears to be accurate and well detailed, however, as noted previously, there are mistakes in the instructions and you really need to study them before assembly. The Aber etch set also adds a lot to the model and I

thoroughly recommend it, even if it is fiddly to fit. The Modelkasten Tracks are a great addition to the kit as trying to cut links this size off the sprue can be tricky.

Although this tiny tank is not as glamorous as it's bigger, better known siblings, I think it's quite important as it was the first Panzer of many. ■



The addition of the two crew figures really helps to bring scale to this diminutive tank.

Modelspec

Tristar 1:35 Panzer 1 Ausf A (Late) Kit No. 35008

Materials

Injection moulded grey coloured styrene. Etch metal sheet. Waterslide decals. Modelkasten tracks.

Paints used

Games Workshop: Chaos Black
Tamiya: XF-2 White, XF-55 Deck Tan, XF-59 Desert Yellow, XF-64 German Grey, X-22 Clear
Poly Scale Flat
Vallejo: 70995 German Grey.

Accessories used

Aber Etch Set 35-118 Pz.Kpfw.I Ausf A Vol.1 (Basic set)
Academy AC1383 Tank Supplies Set II

References used

Achtung Panzer No.7 Panzer I and II Series.
Mitsuro Bitoh. ISBN: 4-499-22773-9
Encyclopaedia of German Tanks of World War Two by Peter Chamberlain and Hilary Doyle.
ISBN 1-85409-518-8

Nicely moulded. Welcome inclusion of etched parts and Modelkasten tracks.

Some mix up of part numbers.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the Editor for kindly supplying the kit and to Malc Ireson for his suggestion about the mix of Mig Weathering Powders.

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MAS3527 1:35 - Checkpoint Set



MAS3520 1:35 - U.S. Rangers, Normandy 1944



MAS3525 1:35 - Skatspieler

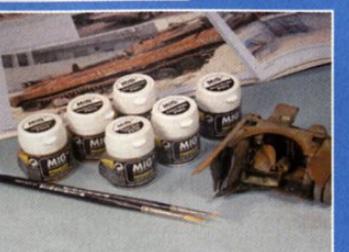


MAS3526 1:35 - German Machine-Gunners, Eastern Front 1944



MAS3529 1:35 - Russian Infantry Korsun-Shevchenkovskiy, 1944

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MIG35299 1:35 Burnt out Jerry Cans



MIG48065 1:48 U.S. 3/4 Ton Dodge WC 51



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HBB82901 1:72 - German Kriegslokomotive Br 52



HBB84807 1:48 - Russian T-34/85 (1944 Flattened Turret)



HBB84810 1:48 - Russian KV-1 tank 1941



HBB84819 1:48 - German Pz.Kpfw KV-2 754(r) tank



HBB82401 1:35 - Leopard II A4



HBB82405 1:35 - Danish Leopard 2 A5DK



ICM3522 1:35 - Le. Gl. Einheits-Pkw (Kfz.2) German Radio Car

WWII German

ICM35361 1:35 - Pz.Kpfw V Hunter Ausf D WWII German

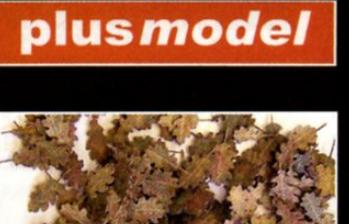
ICM72461 1:72 - Krupp L2H143 Kfz.69 Artillery Tractor & PaK 36 Gun

ICM48085 1:48 - German Luftwaffe Ground Personnel WWII

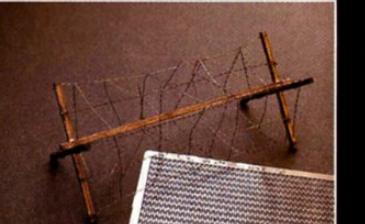
ICM48081 1:48 - WWII Pilots and Ground Crew RAF

ICM35511 1:35 - Studebaker US6 WWII Army Truck

ICM48081 1:48 - WWII Pilots and Ground Crew RAF



PLU287 1:35 - Oak Leaves - Extra Colors



PLU269 1:35 - Barbed wire modern type II



PLU276 1:35 British Light Breakdown CDSW

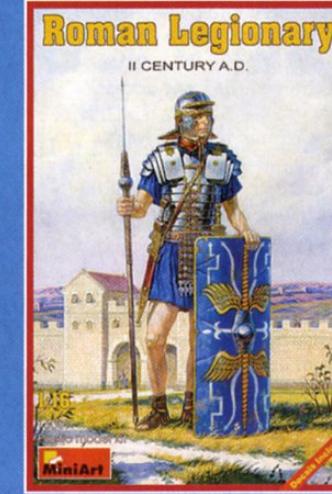


PLU280 1:35 Stoewer Kfz.4 AA Car

PLU275 1:35 - Panzerschreck



MIN16015 1:16 - French Cuirassier



MIN16007 1:16 - Roman Legionary II century A.D.



MIN35043 1:35 - Soviet naval troops



MIN35036 1:35 - Soviet SU-76 M w/ Crew



MIN35505 1:35 - French Farm Gate

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NAGMACHON

Bruce Crosby checks out Legend Productions latest conversion, the purposeful looking Nagmachon.

Legend's new Nagmachon conversion set is designed to be used on the AFV Club Centurion chassis. It comes in a large, stout cardboard box with all components bagged then covered in bubble wrap, minimising the chance of broken or damaged parts. There is a huge resin upper hull which is very cleanly cast with few, if any, air bubbles to worry about. There are the usual resin pour-points that have to be carefully removed, plus the ensuing cleaning up of the scars, but this is easily done. The hull is quite long but my example was as straight as a die, and perfectly square to boot. The one piece approach is completely different to the Cromwell Models conversion which uses a separate engine deck and plates to add to the kit hull top. Then there are bags of smaller components such as machine guns, armour plates, minute handles, etc. All are beautifully mastered and cleanly cast. A further small bag contains a sheet of etched brass, wire, nylon string and a length of chain.

There are two full colour, double sided pages which make

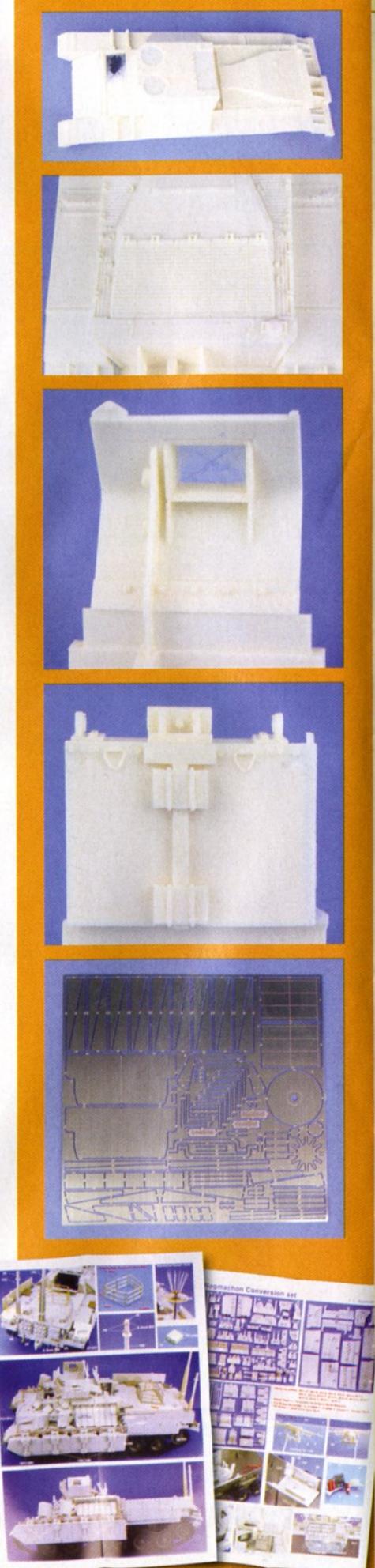
up the instructions and these are the 'Achilles Heel' of the kit; they depict the model during assembly but are very confusing. Page 1's first three photos have most of the parts laid out so you can identify them but there are no corresponding numbers on the resin pour stubs. The same goes for the reactive armour blocks, but these aren't even shown on the photo layout, so you more or less have to guess what's what. The AFV Club chassis needs to be chopped to allow the new upper hull to sit in place, but again there is no drawing, no measurements, nothing. It's not actually all that bad, the AFV Club chassis needs to have everything above the moulded-in mudguard location slot removed, but this should have been pointed out for the modeller, rather than having to guess. It gets even more confusing when you find that there are hardly any location marks for the smaller pieces. The etched brass is used for brackets and fillets with again hardly any location marks. It is also used for the headlamp brush guards and here a template is needed but isn't supplied.

The standard of both master

making and casting is second to none - this is one very neat kit. However, it is going to be fiddly to assemble. For instance, there are lots of little triangular and 'D' handles all over the vehicle and these have not been cast in situ. Instead, they are provided on small blocks, so they have to be shaved off with a scalpel then cemented into position; not for the faint hearted! The crew compartment has a full interior visible through the large access hatches, but for some reason this does not extend to the driver's compartment.

I looked online for photos of the Nagmachon and was amazed at how few there were to be had. This means you will need to allow a lot of time for trial fitting of small parts because you don't really know where they ought to go!

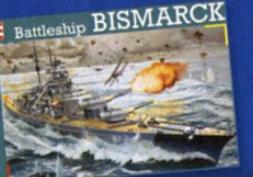
To sum up, it is a beautifully mastered and cast kit spoilt by poor instructions and lack of location marks. I can't recommend it to the novice modeller but for experienced modellers with a few resin kits under their belts, this is for you. I'm certainly looking forward to the challenge! ■



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ON A WING AND A PRAYER

Matt Wellhouser describes his stunning World War I diorama.

Biplanes are cool. It is a wonder that they even fly. If you look at one up close, your first reaction is "how did they fly this?", and then you realise, "they shot at each other too".

The art of James Dietz is sensational. As I was browsing through a book showing his work (*Portraits of Combat*, by Jay Broze), I saw a painting called "Mud in Your Eye". It depicts a

WW1 Sopwith Camel pilot who made a hard landing and nosed over his plane at the edge of a trench. Soldiers in the trench were tending to him as they had tea.

Aeroplane models are nice, but even better when you can add life and a story. To me a model without a figure is half finished. There is the standard "plane on a base with a guy next to it" theme but I wanted to do something different. Then I came upon the

idea of a crashed aircraft with the pilot defending himself from approaching enemy troops which was perfect for a dramatic scene; of course he crashed at the edge of the wrong trench!

I pored over hundreds of WW1 crashed airplane pictures. It became apparent that they crashed in two ways, really hard and ending up as a pile of wood and fabric or nosed over because the speed of the plane slowed

down and it tipped up.

So the story goes... 'as the oil ran out of the engine, the pilot made a forced landing in no man's land. As he approached the trench, the landing gear became fouled in barbed wire and the plane nosed over. Defending himself, he began capping off the Jerries approaching'..... Should be a movie, or a model! ▶



Hobbycraft's 1:32 Sopwith Camel was chosen as the focal point for the diorama. A length of aluminium rod was inserted through the propeller to secure it to the base. The rigging was made from monofilament fishing line.



Pigments and thinned brown acrylic paint were used to give the underside a dirty finish to simulate where it has ploughed across the ground, before finally coming to rest in its precarious position.

NOT ALL SOPWITH KITS ARE CREATED EQUAL

I needed a 1:32 scale Sopwith Camel (or similar) to go with the Pegaso Models "Frank Luke" 54mm scale (same as 1:32) figure. The figure was really close to what I needed; just the addition of a flying helmet was required. Two manufacturers make 1:32 scale Camel kits, Academy and HobbyCraft. Well suffice to say, the best kit is from HobbyCraft (the voice of experience here). They make two versions, the Clerget and LeRhone. The only differences are the engine and markings. They are excellent kits in their own right but I added some photo etch seatbelts and gun shrouds from Tom's Model Works.

Assembly was straightforward. I added a section of aluminium rod through the propeller to secure the plane to the base. All of the struts were pre-drilled for monofilament fishing line rigging. Tackle shops have quite a good assortment of different thicknesses of line. It is helpful to glue the struts on the lower wing first and allow the glue to dry before attaching the top wing. The wings and fuselage were painted and decaled before assembly.

I used Tamiya acrylic paints to finish the aircraft. I generally followed the painting scheme for

Sopwith Camels using Olive Drab for the top surfaces, and Buff for the lower, but did not try to replicate one specific aircraft. I added Flat Brown to the Buff for shading, then Desert Yellow to the OD. Alclad aluminium was used for the bare metal areas including the cowling. Once dry, I masked some areas of the cowling with Maskol and sprayed it Flat Red. When dry, I used tape to remove the Maskol which created the chipped paint effect. Some light work with a Prismacolour silver pencil finished the effect.

The wood grain was simulated by painting the desired areas Tamiya Buff and then using artist's oils to simulate the colour and grain. I use browns and sienna colours with a stiff brush to simulate the direction of the grain. Once dry, it is coated with Testors Dull Cote. A small length of Verlinden barbed wire and a wooden fence post was added, tangled in the landing gear. Pigments and thinned brown acrylic were used to dirty the plane up; it must have made a mess when it finally came to rest.

NO MAN'S LAND

To add drama to the scene, I wanted a smaller base. Too big a base lets the eye wander and the viewer does not focus on the

subject. You lose impact. The message has to get to the viewer immediately so they understand the topic of the diorama. This also makes base construction easier! I used a piece of cardstock to figure out the size. I started big and worked my way down from there. Using the completed aircraft as a guide, I played around with various layouts until I was happy. I wanted to convey a sense of urgency, as the downed pilot was shooting enemy troops approaching "off stage".

Sculptamold (plaster and paper-



The wood grain effect on the propeller was achieved by first painting it in Tamiya Buff. This was followed by applying brown and Sienna coloured oil paints in the direction of the grain using a stiff brush.

WATCH YOUR FINGERS

Off to the workshop now as I usually make my own bases. So many times I need an unusual size, and since I have the tools, I can cut a piece of lumber to a custom dimension. Once I had the base cut, I used styrene sheet to form the sides and back. The basic trench is Styrofoam. With the Styrofoam cut to fit, I contoured the profile to create the trench section. I then used a hobby knife to trim the styrene to match the Styrofoam.

Sculptamold (plaster and paper-



The Pegaso figure of Lt. Frank Luke was exactly what the author needed for the scene. The only modifications needed were to sculpt a flying cap as the original figure is bare headed.



The fallen German started life as an old Airfix Multipose WW2 German soldier. A&B putty was used to add the cuffs and longer tunic coat tails. Lead foil was used to make the puttees over the tops of his boots.



The WWI pattern helmet was donated by one of the author's friends, Roger Cleaps. Both figures were painted using Vallejo Acrylics. Note the subtle camouflage pattern painted on the helmet.

mâché product) was used to make the basic groundwork. I like to tint the Sculptamold with an acrylic earth colour when I mix it up. This mix also included pigments and some real dirt for texture. I applied it with a palette knife and whilst it was still wet, I embedded some wood planks for the trench floor. An old tree root was used for the dead trees on the right hand side of the diorama and Model Railroad tree stumps were added for felled trees. The trench cribbing was made from model railroad lumber

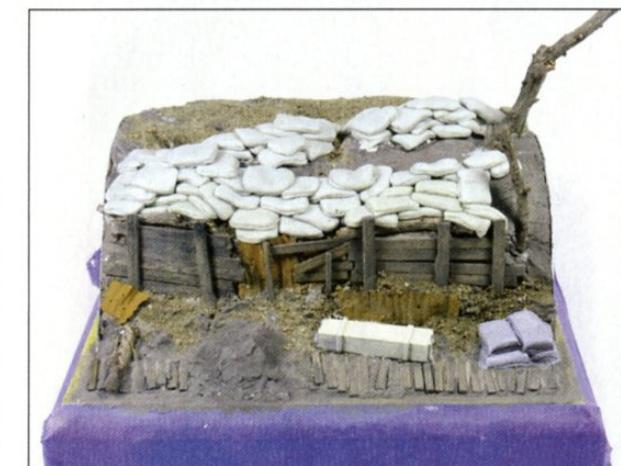
stained with a wash of India ink and rubbing alcohol. I also added a small section of corrugated sheet made out of a piece of kitchen foil. At first I had the idea to use commercially available sandbags and details but I found it was far easier to make my own sandbags. Using Magic-Sculpt, I rolled out sections like a snake, and cut them into scale lengths but be careful as the sand bags can get out of scale easily. Remember, your little army men have to lift them! The job went quickly, just like first

grade and making snakes from modelling clay. Once I had the bags cut to length, I used a piece of fine mesh fabric screen to press a texture into the bag. They were then placed on the base, and final texturing was done, as well as pressing in a seam with a blunt Xacto blade. It took about two sessions of bag making to create enough for the diorama. After the last set of bags was applied, I added the aircraft to the scene. A hole was drilled in the ground, and then the aluminium rod sticking

out of the propeller shaft was guided into place. The aircraft was carefully pushed into the soft sandbags and thus plane meets ground! Once set, the bags left a permanent key for the aircraft to sit in.

I painted the finished sandbags with Vallejo Khaki and Buff mixed 50/50. When dry, a wash of Burnt Umber oil paint was applied. Finally, highlights were applied.

I used my airbrush to give the base a first coat of ground colour. Then pigments, washes and dry ►



The author sculpted his own sand bags from Magic-Sculpt. The woven texture was re-created by pressing a piece of fine fabric mesh onto each bag.



Without the plane fixed in place, the small size of the actual diorama can be appreciated.

On a Wing and a Prayer...
At the Edge of No Man's Land
1918

brushing with lighter ground colours helped define the terrain. I like to use Khaki, English Uniform, Iraqi Sand and Buff to give a dirt colour. It is really hard to mess this up, just mix some colour and go to town. Remember that you can always go back and adjust colours when your first coat is dry.

FIGURES

I started with the pilot figure. The Pegaso figure of Lt. Frank Luke sculpted by Mike Good fitted the scene perfectly. The figure is cast in cream coloured resin. The base figure was bare headed, and I needed a pilot who had just jumped (or crawled) out of the crashed aircraft. What's a boy to do? Well, break out the putty and sculpt a flying helmet. Fortunately, the Internet came to the rescue with pictures of a British WWI flying helmet (or hat) to copy. I really like Tamiya's two-part epoxy putty (quick type), it has a stiff consistency and holds a nice shape as you work it. For smaller items, it is easier to work with Magic-Sculpt. I removed Lieutenant Luke's hair with my trusty scalpel, and then applied the epoxy putty. After the base had cured, I added the

chin straps. That completed the modifications.

The figure was painted with Vallejo acrylics using a 50/50 mix of English Uniform and US Field Drab. Highlights were Sunny Skintone, and shadows were a mix of Winsor and Newton Sepia tube watercolour added to the base colour. The face and helmet were painted in artist oils.

The fallen German was a semi scratch built figure based on an old Airfix Multipose WW2 German. I assembled the basic torso legs and arms from the Airfix parts. The legs were modified and puttees were added using lead foil. A&B Putty was used to add cuffs and longer coat tails to the tunic. Fellow modeller Roger Claeys donated the helmet and rifle. The figure was painted with Vallejo acrylics as well. It is always a challenge to have a prone figure on the groundwork, well more exactly, in the groundwork. I had to add some earth under the torso and a fallen log under the legs.

Pigment and earth colour were added to tie the figure to the base. Both figures were then permanently mounted. As a small detail touch, I added wooden boxes,



Parts from the spares box were added to the trench to give it the 'lived in' look. The boots came from a Dragon Tiger I kit. Note how realistic the scratch built corrugated iron sheeting looks.

Modelspec

Hobbycraft 1:32 Sopwith Camel

Paints used

Vallejo English Uniform, US Field Drab
Sunny Skintone, Khaki, Buff, Iraqi Sand
Winsor and Newton Sepia tube watercolour
Alclad Aluminium

Available from

All good model shops

CONCLUSION

This was a great alternative to display an aircraft kit. I think it has visual interest and action. I was honoured when my diorama won a gold medal at the 2006 SCAHMS show in Southern California. ■



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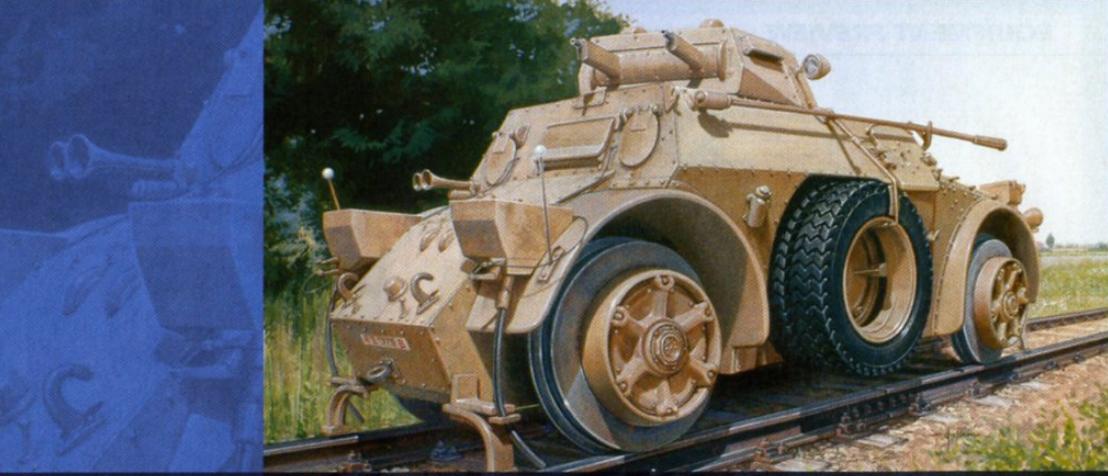
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TOTAL ECLIPSE

Alex Clark gets his hands on Iwata's Eclipse HP-CS airbrush.

Being a long term user of a Badger 150 dual action airbrush, I jumped at the chance to review an airbrush from the Eclipse range as I was curious how the two would compare. When the airbrush arrived, I found it well packed in a small box, safely embedded in a block of foam. Features of this particular model include:

- Dual action, top feed
- 1/3 oz. (9ml) reservoir
- 0.35mm nozzle
- Triple plated chrome finished exterior

INITIAL IMPRESSIONS

The airbrush has a nice and balanced, weighty feel to it - just enough to feel comfortable without giving hand ache after prolonged periods of use. It's very evident that every part is machined to a very high quality and the cup size on this particular model is large enough to avoid the

need for constant refilling during larger projects. For the review I was also sent a moisture trap that screws directly onto the airbrush and this has the added benefit of further improving the already comfortable grip.

SPRAYING WITH ENAMELS AND ACRYLICS
To put the airbrush through its paces, I tested both enamel paints and acrylic paints. After a little practice with each on some scrap card, I tried it on an actual model. To test general coverage, I applied an overall single coat of matt black Humbrol enamel. Following this I tested the fine line control by gradually building up a shaded top coat using Life Color acrylic paints. Both sprayed perfectly and were atomised very well. The shading process was a particularly good test as it was applied to a 1:72nd scale armour model and this required very fine control. I was pleased to see the Iwata handled

this with ease. One feature that I personally found particularly useful was the addition of a lid for the paint reservoir. I've lost count of the number of times I've accidentally tipped an airbrush at too steep an angle and ended up pouring the paint out of it! This solves that problem and the lid fits nice and snugly without leaks.

CLEAN-UP

Changing colour during a session was easy and spraying a little thinner through the brush was enough to flush out the previous colour. After using the final colour I sprayed thinners through and upon disassembling the airbrush was pleased to find no traces of paint within it. This was not always the case with the Badger 150 and often I had to take it apart and clean the components separately.



As well as ensuring that moisture free air is fed into the airbrush, the in-line moisture trap also fits comfortably in the palm of the hand.



As can be seen in this photo, the in-line moisture trap makes a convenient hand-hold.

The author tested Life Color's excellent acrylic paints in the Iwata Eclipse. The Cromwell Nagmachon article will feature in next month's issue of MMi.

CONCLUSION

I can honestly say I've enjoyed using this airbrush so far and it has performed extremely well. I'm looking forward to trying a further variety of camouflage schemes and weathering effects in the future.

Highly recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Alex Medwell at the Airbrush Company for supplying the review sample. ■

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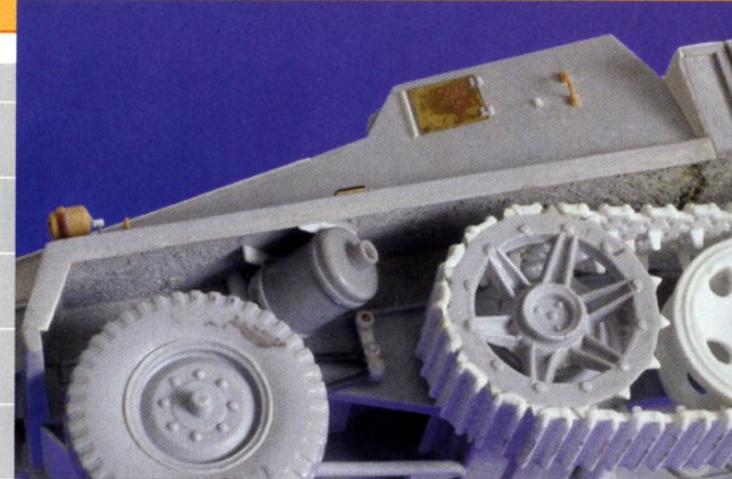
SECOND HAND SCHLEPPER

Fraser Grey describes how he built a vignette using a second-hand example of Ironside's s.W.S halftrack and some simple and straightforward modelling techniques.

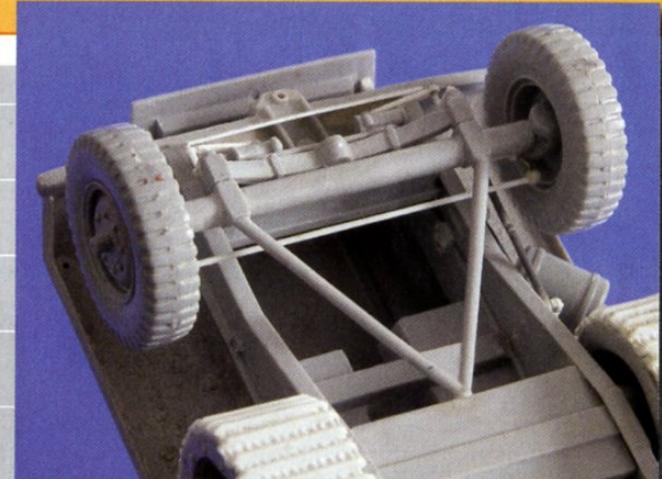


The Schweren Wehrmacht Schlepper was a class of medium half track designed to replace the Sd. Kfz 6 and Sd. Kfz 7 half tracks. Design work was started on the s.W.S. in 1942, and by about March 1945 the first thousand chassis were delivered from the production line. The half track was supplied in three different versions, an open cab and cargo platform, an armoured cab with a cargo platform and a version with a completely enclosed armoured body. The armoured cab and cargo platform vehicles were used as artillery prime movers or ammunition carriers. Some of the ammunition carriers and open cab s.W.S. were adapted to carry the powerful 37mm Flak 43 anti-aircraft gun. I have been told that photographic evidence is available showing that the Quadruple 20mm Flak 38 was also fitted.

As far as is known, only one example has survived WWII, an open cab version. The half track was part of The Victory Memorial Museum collection located in Belgium. When the museum was closed, the collection was dispersed, and so the location of the vehicle is now unknown.



1. It is difficult to find photographs of the s.W.S. and so I used a completed model of the Italeri kit as a reference. I improved the support brackets for the exhaust manifold and added the pipe that leads to the engine. Just between the front wheel and the drive sprocket, you can see part of the steering mechanism which was also missing. I took my measurements from the Italeri kit and used plastic card and rod to replace the missing items. I also took the opportunity to stipple some Revell Plasto putty on the underside of the track guards to represent mud. The putty was first thinned with Humbrol Liquid Poly and applied with a cut down medium size paint brush.



2. Again with reference to my constructed Italeri kit, further minor detailing has been undertaken around the steering mechanism. When the model was eventually attached to the base, most of this detail could not be seen anyway!



3. The completed model before its coat of primer. I replaced the kit's tools with items from the Tamiya On Vehicle Equipment set, held in position with Aber clamps and clasps.



4. Before I glued the crew compartment's armoured cab into position, I painted the interior. Lacking any reference, I assumed the interior was painted ivory as was the standard practice for the interior of all German AFVs. The bench was painted in wood colours, mixed from Humbrol's Enamel range, as were the leather cushions (I assume) on the seats. Oil spills and weathering were applied in the most obvious areas using washes of various mud coloured shades mixed from Humbrol paint and thinned with white spirit.

Tech Guide - IRONSIDE 1:35 S.W.S. DIORAMA



5. When I had completed painting and weathering the interior, the armoured cab was glued into position and the adhesive left to set overnight. Just prior to applying a coat of Halfords Automotive primer, tissue paper was gently forced into the hatch and rear of the cab to prevent any spray getting inside and spoiling the interior, the tissue was fixed into position using Tamiya low tack masking tape.



6 & 7. It is of course a matter of personal preference, but I find the range of German AFV camouflage colours supplied by manufacturers to be a little dark for my liking. I therefore mix my own shades and decant them into old Tamiya acrylic paint jars. I painted my S.W.S in the new range of German AFV paints by Lifecolor. The base colour was UA 203 Gelbbraun considerably lightened with white, UA 206 Olivgrün and UA 205 Rotbraun which were similarly lightened with white.



8. Once the camouflage colours had been applied and left to dry before removing all of the masking tape and tissue from the cab interior.



9. I crewed my vignette with figures from the MiniArt range, carrying out minor work, such as replacing the heads with items from the Hornet range but otherwise the figures are out of the box. Most of the work was carried out on the crewman standing on the deck of the half track. This involved replacing his head and modifying one of his hands so that he gripped the shell more realistically. Although MiniArt figures lack the crispness of Dragon figures, they have an attractive air of scruffiness about them, which gives them the realistic appearance of soldiers on campaign.



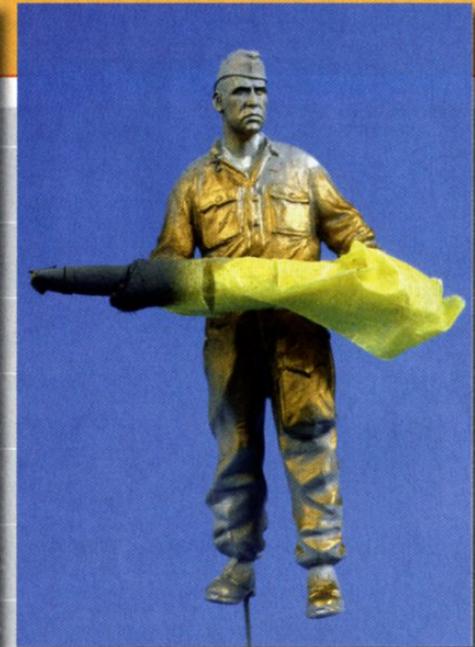
12. The head and 88mm shell can be masked with Tamiya masking tape in preparation for the painting of the shirt and trousers. First, the entire figure was airbrushed with a blend of Humbrol 67 Tank Grey, Humbrol 101 Mid Green and Humbrol 34 White. This combination of paints was mixed with a preference towards the Tank Grey. When the first coat of paint was touch dry, a second coat was applied, this time with a little more white added to the mix. The airbrush was held above the figure, causing the paint to catch just the highlights of the figure such as the top of the shoulders and the creases in his shirt.



10. Metallic paints are difficult to apply with a paint brush. I mixed a blend of Humbrol No.54 Brass with the shine removed with a dab of Humbrol No.10 Service Brown and airbrushed the cartridge case. I use one of my old Badger airbrushes, which I keep specifically for airbrushing metallic paints as for some reason, no matter how well I clean an airbrush after using metallics, it always seems to contaminate the next colour put through it with shiny metallic particles.



13 & 14. The most important aspect of painting figures is to achieve a realistic face. The face is first undercoated in Humbrol 61 Flesh and left over night to cure. To paint the face, I used a blend of Humbrol 61 Flesh and 34 White. The blend is thinned with white spirit and applied down the nose, across the top of the cheeks and along the jaw line. When the paint is touch dry, the stark edges between the base coat and the highlights can be blended using a paint brush moistened with white spirit. The shadow areas are applied using the same technique using a darker Humbrol 73 Wine. To give my figures a 'campaign weary' appearance, I painted a blend of Humbrol 61 and 104 Oxford Blue, around the beard growing areas of the face to give a 'five o'clock shadow'. The most challenging part of figure painting is dealing with the eyes. If you don't have a steady hand, then paint the eye area with a dark brown line. If you start to observe people's faces more closely, you will notice that a lot of the detail in the face is in the eye. This technique is preferable to a clumsily painted eye resembling a fried egg! For a more advanced technique, check out Robert Doepp's "Paint it Black" article in the last issue.



MAKING THE BASE



15. I prefer to construct bases for my models from thick plastic card. To add some topographical variety I built up opposite corners with scrap plastic.



16. To provide some interest to the groundwork, I had built up the corners with scrap plastic. These were then filled with Milliput and textured with an old tooth brush.



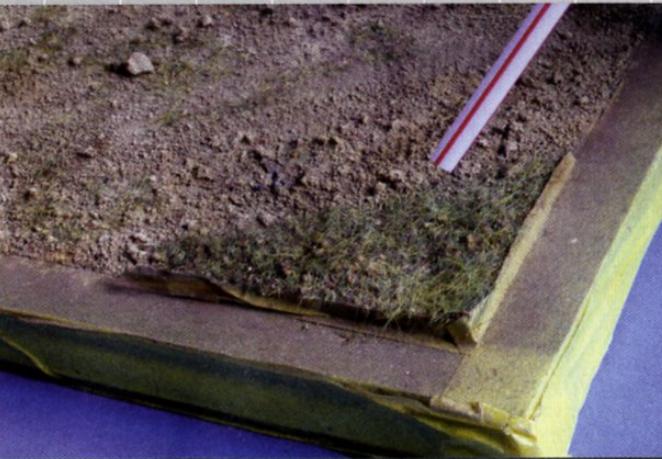
17. A coat of PVA wood glue was then applied with a broad paint brush. The glue can be thinned with tap water, and the consistency to aim for is thick cream, thin enough to be applied with a broad paint brush but with a viscosity that will retain the groundwork. The groundwork basically consists of fine aquarium sand to which I have added gravel and small stones and roots collected from the garden. If a stone impedes the models eventual location it can easily be removed.



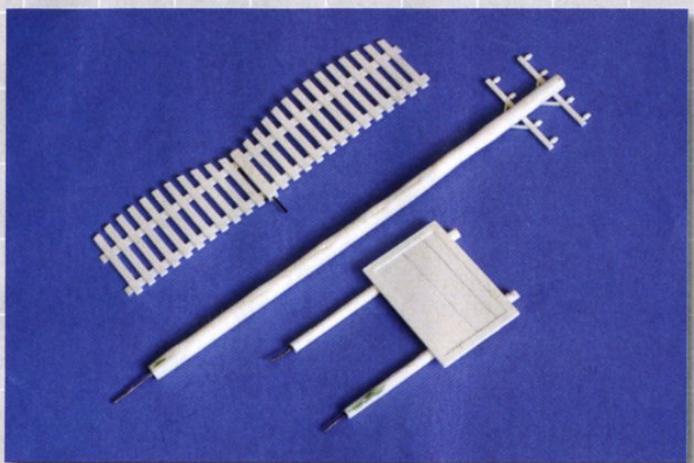
18. When the groundwork had set, the masking tape can be removed, producing a neat edge between the display base and the groundwork. The base was then painted with Halfords Black bumper repair paint. The paint dries to a semi-matt finish and is resistant to handling.



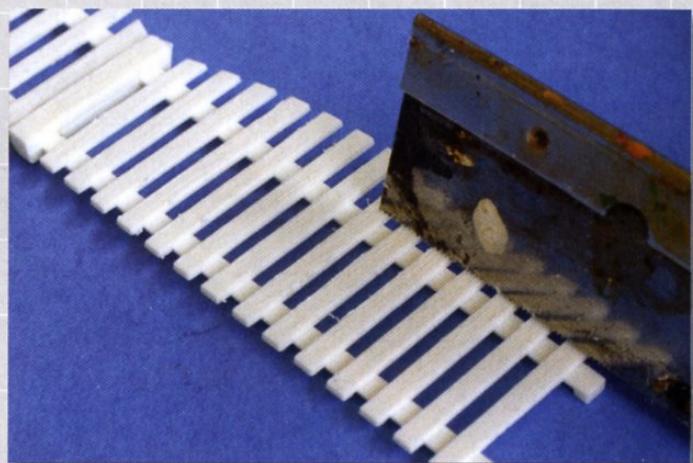
19. The groundwork was then airbrushed with a combination of various Humbrol paints such as 29 Dark Earth, 26 Khaki, and 93 Desert Yellow. The various paints were mixed in the airbrush's reservoir to give a natural appearance without any particular shade dominating the other earth tones. When the paint was touch dry, various pigments from the Andrea Pigment set-01 were stippled over the base with an old cut down brush. When I had achieved a satisfactory effect, I airbrushed a coat of Humbrol Matt Cote to fix the pigments. The airbrush is held at a greater distance than I would normally use, so that a mist of varnish accumulates on the weathering pigments. If you applied the varnish any closer the air pressure delivered by the airbrush would blast the pigments away.



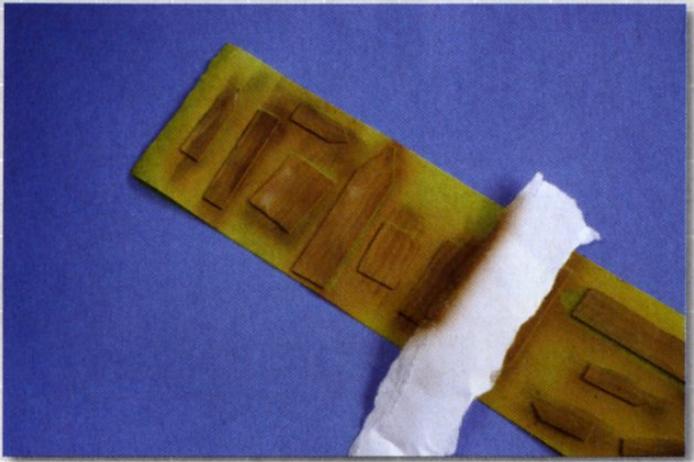
20. To represent the grass on the base I used the various grades of static grass available from model railway suppliers. The areas to be treated were brush painted with Humbrol Matt Cote, and then liberally sprinkled with static grass. Before the Matt Cote dries, a drinking straw was used to blow the individual fibres up to produce a realistic grass effect. Any excess fibres not anchored by the varnish can be tipped away on to a sheet of paper and returned to the packet for future use.



21. The picket fence, telegraph pole and notice board are all from the Tamiya set, ready for priming and painting.



22. To add some interest to the base, I used items from the Tamiya Road Sign Set Item 35067. In the photograph, I have used the fine teeth of a razor saw to emphasise the wood grain of the picket fence, which has the grain only on one side due to the limitation of the injection moulding process when the set was first produced by Tamiya in the '70s.



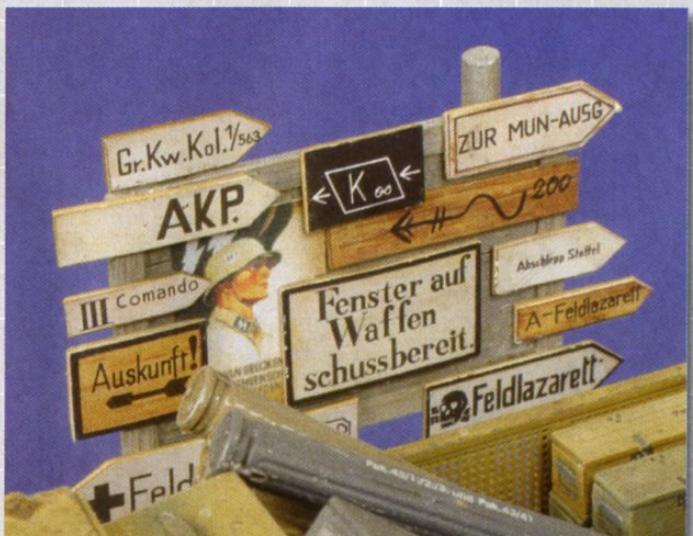
23. Printed on the back of the Tamiya's Road Sign box are a set of German tactical road signs and propaganda posters. I carefully cut them from the box, then primed the back of the signs with a coat of P.V.A. wood glue, which helped reduce the fibrous texture of the card board. I then airbrushed the back of each sign with a blend of Humbrol paint to match the wood colour on the front of each sign. A piece of ordinary paper was then torn to produce an irregular edge which will be used as a stencil to produce a wood grain effect. With the airbrush set to produce a fine spray, gradually advance the stencil downward after spraying along the edge. This should produce a reasonable wood grain effect.



24. The posters supplied on the back of the Tamiya box were too large to fit on the notice board. I scanned the poster on a flat bed scanner, and reduced the image size in Photoshop to fit the notice board's dimensions. The poster was then printed out on to ordinary paper. I reduced the stark white of the paper by weathering the posters with various shades of black and dark brown paint, applied through the airbrush in vertical strokes.



25. To improve the appearance of the signs I carefully painted around the edge of each sign with wood coloured paint to hide the cut edge of the cardboard. The completed tactical signs were also weathered with the same colours that were used on the posters. An application of Humbrol Matt Cote completed the weathering process.



Tech Guide

- IRONSIDE 1:35 S.W.S. DIORAMA



26. The completed vignette. As I had used plastic card to construct my base, it was easy to drill holes and attach the figures to the base with florists wire. The half track was attached to the base with a bolt, and a locking nut under the base. The ammunition cases were glued to the base with P.V.A. wood glue, which dries clear. If you change your mind about the location of any item, warm water applied with a paint brush, will loosen the glue without any damage to the paint work. Further applications of weathering pigments were applied around the figures, ammunition boxes and along the picket fence to blend them with the groundwork.



27. I decided to fill the flat bed of the s.w.s with ammunition containers from the AFV Club German 8.8cm ammunition and accessory set. The were very time consuming to assemble, as each box consisted of six parts. To create some visual variety they were airbrushed in various tones of grey and dark yellow. The stencilling supplied in the AFV Club adds that finishing touch.

Modelspec

IRONSIDE 1:35 s.W.S. Diorama

Kits

Azimut/Ironsides 1:35 s.W.S Armoured Tractor (IRO23)
Figures taken from MiniArt German 7.62cm Gun FK288(r) (35033) and German Self-Propelled Gun Crew (35008)

Accessories

Aber German Clamps and Clasps set (35 A20)
Tamiya German On Vehicle Equipment Set,
Road Sign Set (35067 600)
AFV Club German 8.8cm L/71 Tank Gun Ammunition
and Accessory Set (AF 35072)
Grey and white injection moulded styrene,
photo etch parts and water slide decals.

Paints and pigments

Lifecolor Gelbbraun UA 203
Tamiya Acrylics XF-2 Flat White
Tamiya X-20A Thinner, Lifecolor Olivgrün UA 206
Rotbraun UA 205.
Rowney Artists Oil Colour Sepia Series B 251.
Various powders from Andrea Pigments Set 01
CARAN d'ACHE artist's pencils range, Black 009,
Flame Red 050 Prismalo 999, 249 'Green'
Supracolour 1 3999.498 'Silver'

✓ Azimut/Ironsides s.W.S. is a good model, although much of the work had been done by the previous owner.

✗ The detail around the steering mechanism appeared to have been simplified, although to be fair these parts may have been lost by the previous owner. The plastic used to produce the kit is softer than most other companies use, and therefore greater care must be taken when using a file or wet & dry paper.

Available from

The kit is now discontinued, and so can only be found at second hand model shops like Kit Krazy Tel: 020 8298 7177 or under the club tables at model shows.
Revell have recently re-issued the 3.7cm Flak 43 version which could be converted to the armoured tractor variant.
Aber photo etch sets and MiniArt kits and figures are available from L.S.A. Models, Tel: 01273 705420.

Rating

Squadron

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Jimmy Ngo describes part one of what's going to be an epic Eastern Front diorama.



CROSSING THE BORDER 1945

In June 1944 the Red Army launched its last summer offensive against the Germans. 2.2 million Russian soldiers were facing 500,000 Germans. After the Allied landing in Normandy, the German high command was forced to pull out much needed units from the Eastern Front and send them to the west to reinforce against the D-Day invasion. Therefore, the Soviet firepower was even more overwhelming.

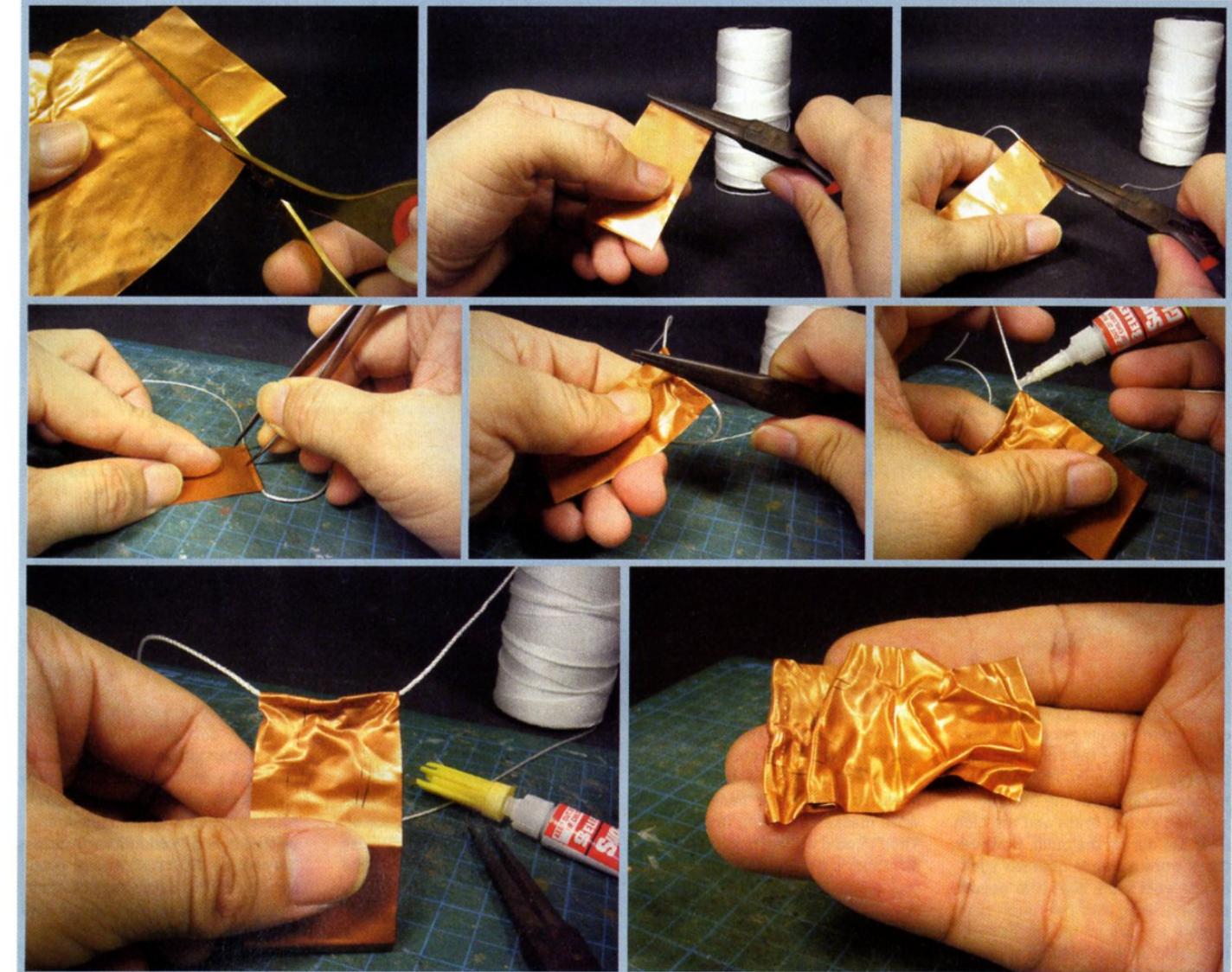
The Russians broke through the German defensive lines and

gained 350 kilometres to the west, towards the German homeland.

The Germans managed to stop the exhausted Russian forces in August 1944 before they reached German territories. The Russians regrouped and launched another offensive towards East Prussia, in October 16th, the first Russian troops entered Germany by crossing the border into East Prussia.

However, in this particular article, I will start with my all time favourite soviet armoured vehicle the T34/85. I selected Dragon's excellent kit (No. 6266) for the project along with a photo etched detail set.

THE PLAN
From this historical short brief, came the fundamental idea for this



Tech Tip! - How to make Tarps.

There are many different methods when it comes to making realistic looking canvas covers, tarpaulins and identification panels (See the Tarpaulin Tech Guide in MMI Issue 7 - available to order at www.modelmilitary.com). The most common methods usually involve the use of epoxy putty and some form of tissue paper or pewter sheet. Personally, I have started to use copper sheet as I have found I get consistently good results using this material.

First of all I measured and cut the copper to the size needed for the 'identification panel' using reference photos to get the approximate size. Next, folds were made just in from the edges of both the short sides using a pair of pliers, then along the bend I laid some fine thread before folding the edges over completely to secure it.

Pliers and tweezers can be used to create natural looking creases and folds in the copper sheet and help it to conform to the surface it is to be placed on. Once both edges were completed, super glue was applied to the corners, this would prevent the thread from being pulled out of the fold.

Very thin copper sheet (paper thickness) is useful for not only tarpaulins, but for tie-down straps, webbing for soldiers equipment or even bent and battered mudguards, exhaust covers and stowage bins.

Various thicknesses of copper sheet should be available from most good model and model railway shops.

T34 to see if there were any details missing from the kit or etch set that I may have to scratch-build.

Even though Dragon do supply a set of their very good Smart Tracks in the kit, I couldn't help myself and decided to replace these tracks with a set of white metal working tracks from Friulmodel.

I like the way these metal tracks sag naturally over the wheels thanks to their weight and they are great for weathering.

OBSTACLE...

The construction was about to start after identifying all the materials and tools to use, but the problem I had was that the tank I had chosen to model featured in only one black and white photo in a Concord book. From this I noticed that the tank had a 'mystery box' attached at the rear of the hull, which put the whole project on hold. I know I could have still built the model without knowing what the box

was for, but my curiosity got the better of me and I had to find out. Questions have been posted on armour forums regarding this 'mystery box' and, via email correspondence with overseas armour modellers, I found out this wasn't the first time this question had been asked. Unfortunately many of the Soviet armour modellers who regularly go online, had no answer to what the purpose of this box was.

However, one of my Japanese

modeller friends (Mr. Aoki Keiichi), did forward me an email address of one Professor Aoki Nobuya who is an expert on Soviet topics and also an article contributor to the Japan modelling magazine, Armour Modelling.

Finally, the 'mystery box' has been revealed, through a few emails between Singapore and Japan. Professor Aoki Nobuya forwarded me some photos, with some further explanation of what this box was all about. I am very



The model was given a solid coat of Gunze Sangyo, Red Brown. Once this colour had dried fully, Bostik Blu-Tack was used to mask off the camouflage scheme.

grateful for his help in solving this puzzle. At least I now knew what this box was for, it simply held the components to assist in engine starting.

CONSTRUCTION

After making a few sketches of the engine starter box from the photo in the Concord book, I was able to workout the dimensions, before scratch building it from plastic card. I didn't really encounter any problems during the construction process even though I had chosen to incorporate both the Dragon supplied etched brass and the Lion Roar set during the build. However, there were a couple of areas such as the weld seam lines that needed defining along with the rough cast armour texture on the turret that I felt could be improved by stippling on thinned Tamiya putty.



The Blu-Tack has now been removed to reveal a nice clean hard-edged camouflage scheme. The colours will be toned down during the following 'filters' and weathering process. Even though the author used applied the red brown before the 'base' green it isn't noticeable now the masking has been removed.



The model was then given a coat of Mr. Color's Green lightened with a couple of drops of Egg green. Once happy with the green, the Blu-Tack could be removed.

PAINTING

To start the painting process, the model was first primed with Mr. Surfacer aerosol primer and left to dry fully for a few days before applying the actual camouflage colours. To start with, I airbrushed on Gunze Sangyo Red Brown (No.41). This colour was sprayed over the whole model, even though this is the colour that is actually applied on top of the Soviet Green, I found it easier to apply it first. Once the Red Brown had been left to dry for a few days, the areas to receive the 'base green' were masked off using Blu-Tack. Then I could airbrush a coat of Mr. Color's Green (No.122), with a few drops of Egg Green (No.26) to lighten the 'base green' colour I was trying to achieve. This would give the impression of faded and worn paint.

WEATHERING...

Leaving the model to dry fully for a few days gives me the peace of mind that the weathering process will have no adverse effect on the underlying paint. The next step is to start the filtering. So far, I have been using several different brands of artist oils, but because of this, I have had some inconsistent

results. Thankfully, my friend Adam Wilder sent me a complete set of Mig Productions' new '502 Abt' oil paints for me to try, and in my opinion, these are the best oil paints that I have ever used! The high quality of the pigment allowed me to achieve exactly the results I was after.

FILTERS

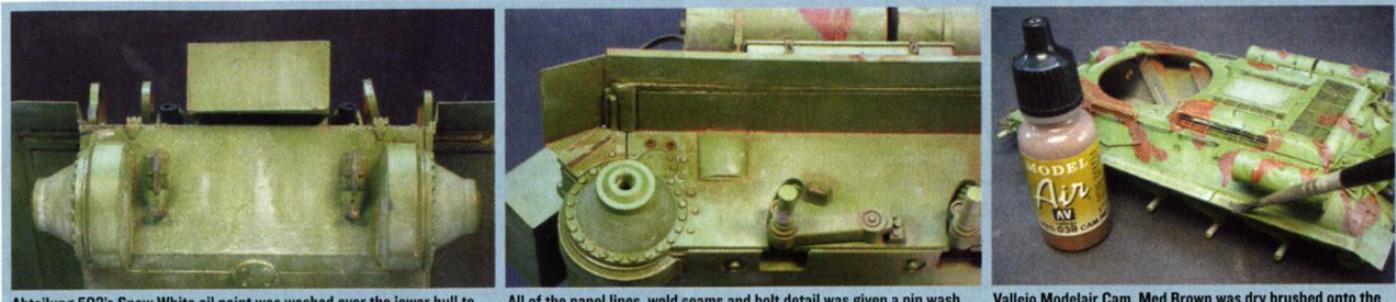
To start the filter effect, I first randomly dotted on Olive Green (Abt 050), Luftwaffe Yellow (Abt 010) and Industrial Earth (Abt 090), using a fine brush. With another round pointed brush dipped and wetted in Mig Productions Odorless Turpentine (502 Abt), I went over the oil paint using vertical strokes. This was repeated over all the dots of oil paint, but do pay attention to the amount of turpentine on the brush, as too much will ruin the desired effect by removing the oil paint completely.

Abteilung's Snow White (Abt 001) oil paint was used to further filter some areas and help impart a dusty appearance to most of the lower hull. Wash Brown (Abt 080) was applied in the form of a 'pin wash' using a fine brush, this helped to highlight the bolt detail and weld seams on both the turret and hull.

PAINT CHIPS

The chipped effect was added using Vallejo Russian Uniform (No.924) and a fine brush to simulate general scuffs and scratches. I used a mixture of Vallejo Dark Sea-Green (163) with a small amount of Black (057) to paint all the mild steel parts like tie-downs, towing cable hooks and spare track links, a worn and dark rusty look. Following this, Vallejo Cam. Med Brown (038) was used to simulate lighter rust on these areas.

T34/85 fenders commonly suffered from heavy wear due to both the crew and accompanying



Abteilung 502's Snow White oil paint was washed over the lower hull to help impart a dusty finish.



All of the panel lines, weld seams and bolt detail was given a pin wash using Abteilung 502's Wash Brown (080).



Vallejo Modelair Cam. Med Brown was dry brushed onto the fenders to simulate worn and scuffed paint work.



Mig Productions Dry Mud (P232) and Beach Sand (P232) were mixed together and thinned with turpentine, then applied to the fenders, all edges and the horizontal surfaces.



To make the mud applied to the lower hull and running gear the author mixed up plaster of Paris, Mig Productions Dry Mud and Dark Mud pigments with artist's gloss varnish. This was then stippled on with an old brush.

infantry constantly mounting and dismounting the vehicle. Vallejo Cam. Med Brown (038) was dry-brushed on the fender surfaces to emphasise the heavily worn and rusty appearance.

Lastly a pin wash of Mig Productions Oil Wash Brown (Abt 080) was applied onto some areas in vertical strokes to simulate

rain marks and stains that have run down the vertical and angled surfaces.

Next, a mixture of Mig Productions Dry Mud (P232) and Beach Sand (030) pigments were used; these were applied with turpentine, on the side fenders and all edges as well as all of the horizontal surfaces on the model.

Once dry, another round tipped brush was used to remove the excess pigment as well as blend it into the surrounding paint work to create a smooth, dusty appearance.

In the diorama, I wanted to show the T34 as if it had just passed through a muddy field before entering the dusty railway yard.

Before applying the mud, all the

wheels were painted in a mixture of Vallejo's Dark Sea-Green (167) and Black (057), then it was left to dry before applying a layer of mud in a random fashion in order to create realistic results.

To make realistic looking mud I had previously mixed together some oil, plaster of Paris, Mig production's Dry Mud (P232), Dark



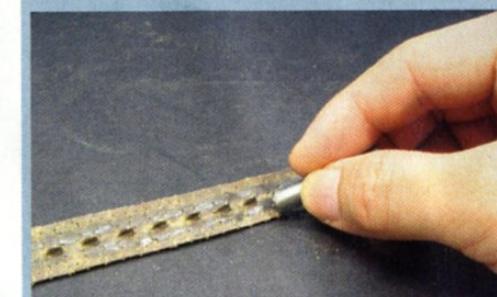
The Friulmodel white metal tracks were first primed using Mr. Surfacer's aerosol primer before being given a coat of Vallejo Modelair's Camouflage Medium Brown.



The track received the same mud mud mixture used on the hull and running gear, this was best applied by dragging and stippling the brush over the tracks for a natural looking effect.



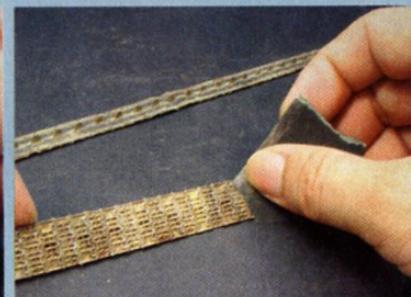
Whilst the mud mixture was still drying, a combination of Mig's Dry Mud and Beach Sand pigments were brushed on using an old stubby brush to give the tracks the final part of the ingrained crusty dried mud look.



The portions of the tracks in contact with the road wheels were rubbed with a graphite stick to represent the way these parts of the tracks that get highly polished by the constant contact with the rubber tyres.



After applying the graphite, the next step was to burnish the graphite powder to a highly polished finish with the aid of an artist's fibre pencil.



Finally the high points of the tracks were rubbed with sand paper to reveal the white metal, this simulates perfectly the effect created when running on paved surfaces.

◀ Mud (P033) and some artist's gloss varnish together with an old brush, (always keep some damaged brushes that are not used for any painting jobs for this purpose). Apply the mud mixture under the hull, tank wheel spokes and suspension areas, letting all of the mud application dry before moving on to the next step. Mix dry pigments of Dry Mud (P232) with Beach Sand (P030) and apply on top of the mud mixture which has been previously applied to all of the wheel spokes and under the hull to further enhance it's dusty appearance. ■

ROUND UP

With the 'step by step' guide now completed, the T34/85 project has come to an end. However, it is just the beginning of the "Crossing the border 1945" diorama in which a 'kod Tiger I with flatbed wagon' will be featured in the next article, where I will describe amongst others, the techniques I used to replicate the burnt and rusty paint, along with the way I created the damaged zimmerit. ■

A BIG THANK YOU...

To Professor Aoki Nobuya from Armour Modelling who has helped me with the 'Engine starter' information, Mr. Aoki Keiichi from Japan, Sven Frisch from Germany for the diorama idea and also for sending the Friulmodel metal track and Lion Roar photo etch set. Other than that, I would also like to thank Mr. Luvin Lim who took the photos of the T34.

Besides all of the above friends, a big, big thanks to my dear friends Adam Wilder and Mig for supplying their great products - Abt oil paint set, odourless turpentine and all the support over the years.

Special thanks to my wife May Chew and mother Catherine Ding for all their support and understanding over the years.



The yellow and red markings add that much needed 'splash' of colour and draw the eye to the model. Note the way the pigments have been applied to areas which would naturally collect dust and grime.



The subtle streaking on the glacis plate was achieved by adding dots of Mig Productions oil paint to specific points, then dragging the paint down using a clean brush moistened with turpentine.



This view of the lower hull shows off to good effect the realistic mud made by the author. Note how some patches are darker than others. This replicates the thicker mud drying slower than thinner areas.



Once the mix of Mig Productions pigment and turpentine had dried on the fenders, the excess was removed with a stiff brush, leaving a very realistic dusty effect.

TRACKS

The Friulmodel tracks were first primed, (again using Mr. Surfacer) before applying a coat of Vallejo's Cam. Med Brown (038). This was followed by an earth mixture using Dry Mud (P232) and Beach Sand (P030), these pigments mixed together created a very realistic looking dusty colour. This was followed by simulating the wheel marks on the track, where the tracks get polished either side of the central guide horns. An artist's graphite pencil was run along the middle part of the track before polishing with a fibre tipped pencil. Finally the portions of the track in contact with the ground were rubbed back to the bare white metal using fine grade sand paper to reveal a polished metal finish.

The copper sheet used for the identification panel on the engine deck proved to be the ideal material for replicating this item.

Modelspec

Diorama featuring Dragon's 1:35 T34/85

Materials

Dragon 1:35 T34/85 kit no. 6266
Friulmodel white metal T-34 tracks ALT-09
Lion Roar Etched brass detail set 35028.

Paints used

Vallejo Modelcolor Cam. Med Brown (038)
Vallejo's Dark Sea-green (167) Black (057)
Russian Uniform (No.924)
Mr. Color's Green (No.122)
Mr. Color's Egg Green (No.26)
Oil Paints
Abteilung's Snow White (Abt 001), Wash Brown (Abt 080), Olive green (Abt 050), Luftwaffe Yellow (Abt 010), Industrial Earth (Abt 090)
Pigments
Mig Production's Dry Mud (P232), Dark Mud (P033), Beach Sand (P030)

An Excellent kit, value for money.

I would have liked more P.E. parts included.

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Rating

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March 2008 - Model Military International 37

HST HIGH SPEED TRACTOR



Ian McGonagle checks out Hobby Boss's all new M4 High Speed Tractor.

The M4 High Speed Tractor (HST) came about because of the need of the US Army to move large field guns forward to support the Infantry frontline push. Carrying a crew of up to eleven and basic ammunition at a staggering 35mph, this was a prime mover built specifically for the job, with approximately six thousand being produced in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

This much-awaited release will please all those people, like me, who didn't want to purchase the resin kit, but wanted to model this popular vehicle and it seems that this is the first of the two M4s to be released from Hobby Boss. The model is presented in a corrugated

box with the M4 HST shown in a winter ETO scene, with a coffee break for the crew on standby for an aerial attack.

The kit contents are individually bagged with a partition within the box for the hull and cab. The instructions are two fold-out pages, with the lower hull and running gear being covered in the first two stages on sheet one and the rest of the kit covered by the second sheet; a word of caution, some of the stages can be a little intense, so take your time and study the instructions stage by stage.

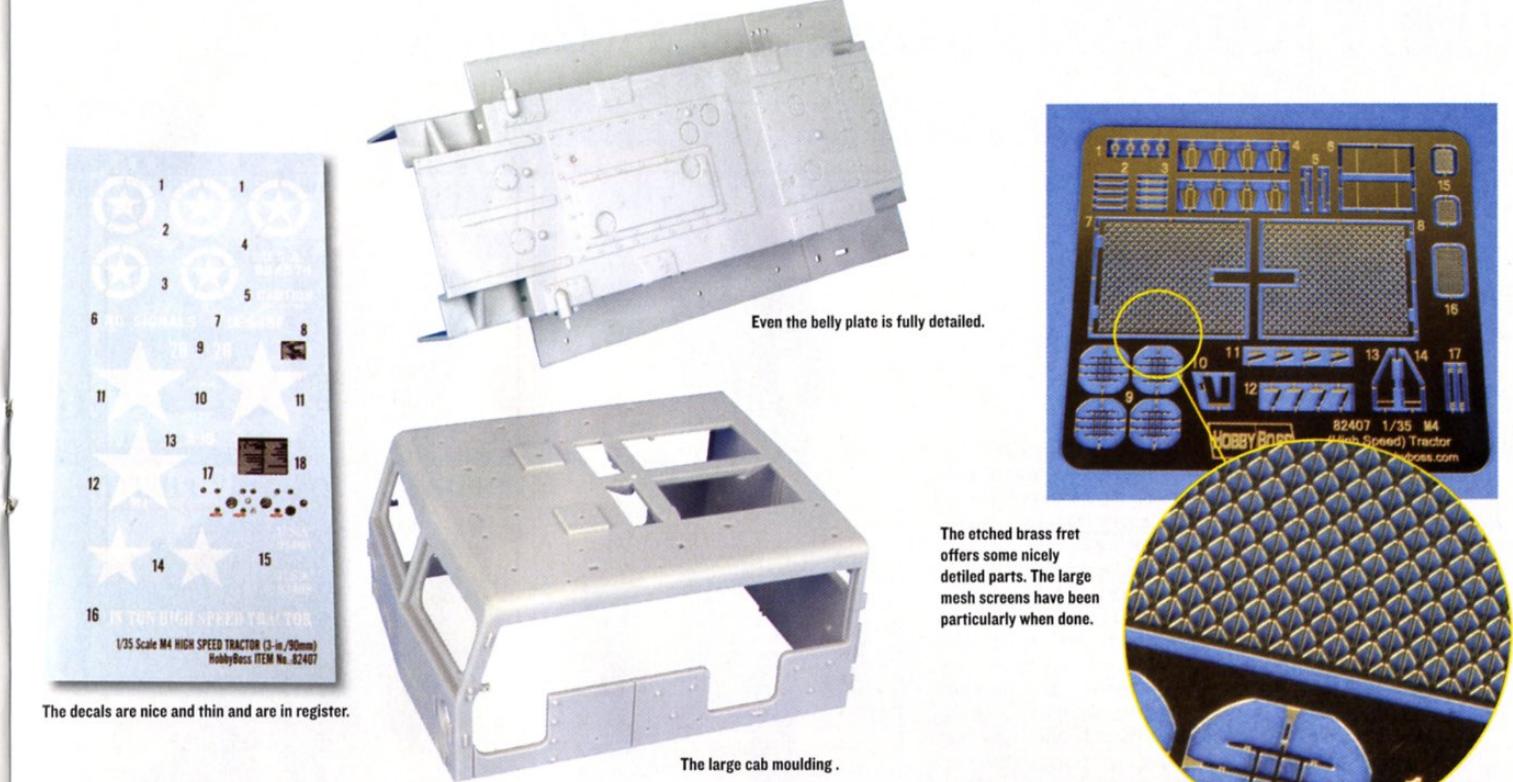
With approximately 240 grey plastic parts, 16 clear plastic parts, 50 etched brass parts, two full-length vinyl T49 Cleat tracks,

white cotton thread, fine chain and a set of pre-cut window masks, the kit components make up a truly multi media kit and although it's not to the Dragon standard, you can't help but be impressed by the sheer content.

The running gear and lower hull are well detailed looking like a M3 Stuart on steroids. The rear idler wheels are composed of three separate pieces alone. Suffering from the smallest amount of flash, the whole running gear looks finely detailed with good definition on the road wheels and bogies, but the drive wheels could do with some further detail as they seem a little bland compared to reference photographs. On the subject of

the running gear, the Tankograd Tech manual shows the early M4 3 inch/90mm with the T54E1 track installed but as stated previously the kit provides the T49 vinyl track.

Moving to the upper hull, the build takes you through four main areas including the Winch, Engine deck, Ammo hold and Cabin. The winch area is covered by representing the drum, drive gearbox and frame work, this area is a little basic but on the finished model only about a third of the whole construction will be visible. The Waukesha 145GZ 6-cylinder engine is presented in full, only a small amount of fine detail is required to show off this major component. It has to be one



The decals are nice and thin and are in register.

The etched brass fret offers some nicely detailed parts. The large mesh screens have been particularly when done.



The large cab moulding.

great bonus at this point.

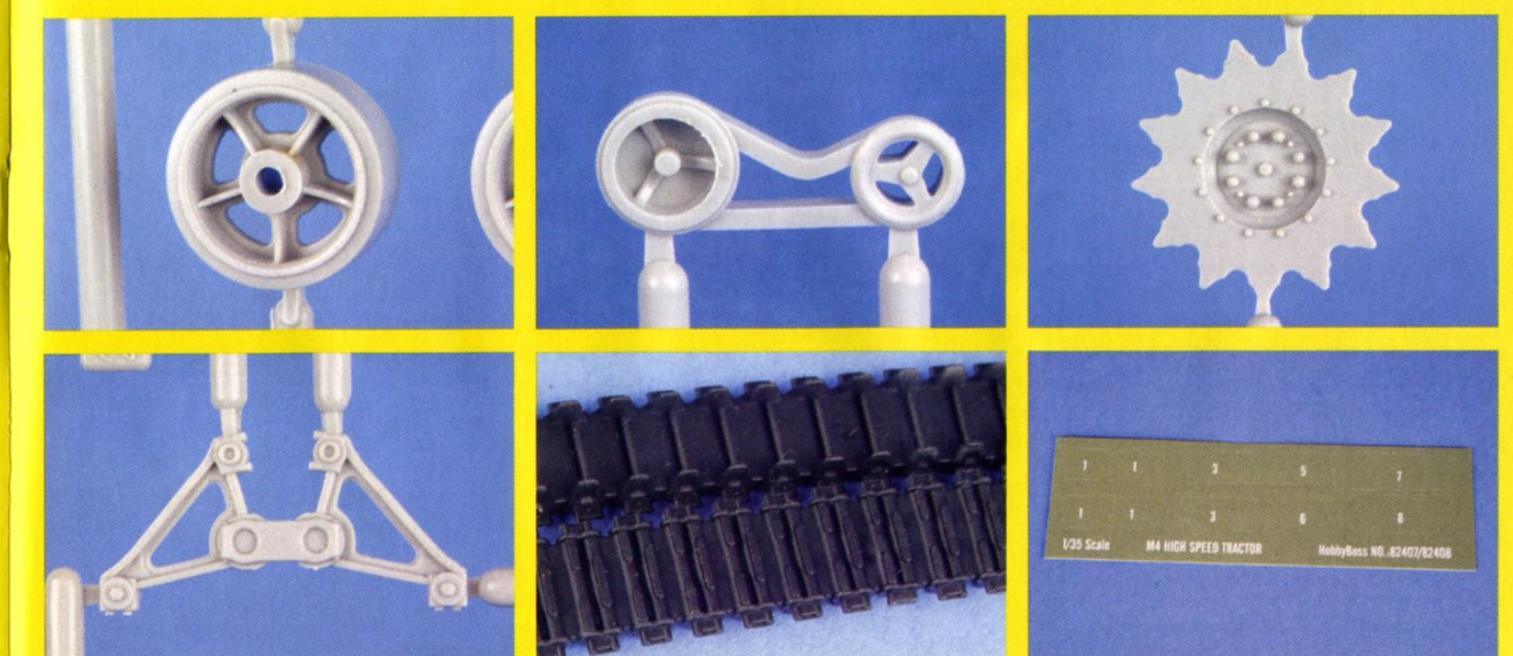
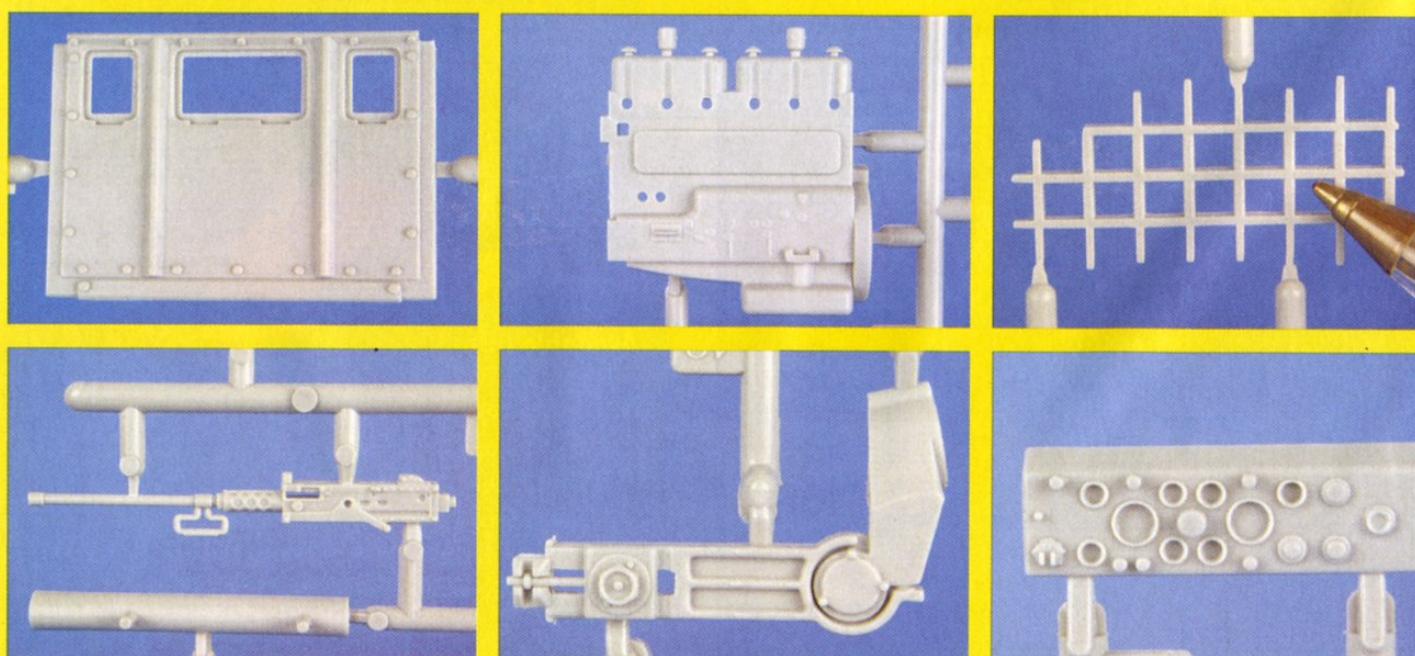
The final assembly to be constructed is the ammo stowage which is a sequence of large flat panels building into two stowage areas. The inner areas of the panels suffer from sink marks, but can easily be rectified with a little filler. The upper stowage area should have a canvas tarp, but this is not supplied, so if you required one on your model you will have to make it from scratch (sounds like a good subject for the Editor's Tech Tip).

The decal sheet is small but has a thin carrier film good register. You should be aware that the M4 HST in combat did not have the "18 Ton High Speed Tractor" marking

on the front bumper, this was for the demo vehicle in the US.

For the Allied modeller this has to rank in the top three most wanted kits of the year and Hobby Boss haven't let us down. Was it worth the wait? I think so, very much so. It gives you that unique dynamic of a kit that can be built straight from the box using all the media at a price that won't hurt your pocket or can be added to by the modeller wishing to super detail their subject. I feel sure that the aftermarket additions will follow to tweak the small detail issues and add to this marvellous kit.

Distributed in the UK by Creative Models (www.creativemodels.co.uk)



Figures

- A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



DOUG'S ORIGINAL

1:35 DAK PANZER CREWMAN (LEFT) ITEM NO.35014
1:35 DAK PANZER CREWMAN (RIGHT) ITEM NO.35015

It's been a while since we have had any of the excellent Doug's Original figures in for review, but fortunately Friendship Models now stock the complete range. What we have here are two beautifully cast medium grey resin figures depicting a pair of crewmen hanging out of the turret side hatches of a Panzer III or IV. Both are dressed in typical Afrika Korps tropical uniform, and one figure has been sculpted wearing shorts and a peaked field cap while the other features long trousers and side cap.

One of the highlights for me is the way the legs, torso and arms all have positive location spigots and holes which line up exactly, guaranteeing a perfect fit, (it's my fault the left hand figure has not been joined properly, Ed). I'm afraid I am going to have to rate these 10 out of 10 as I can't fault them, beautifully sculpted, perfectly cast and the poses look realistically natural.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com
10/10 - The Editor



SPECIAL OPS MODELS

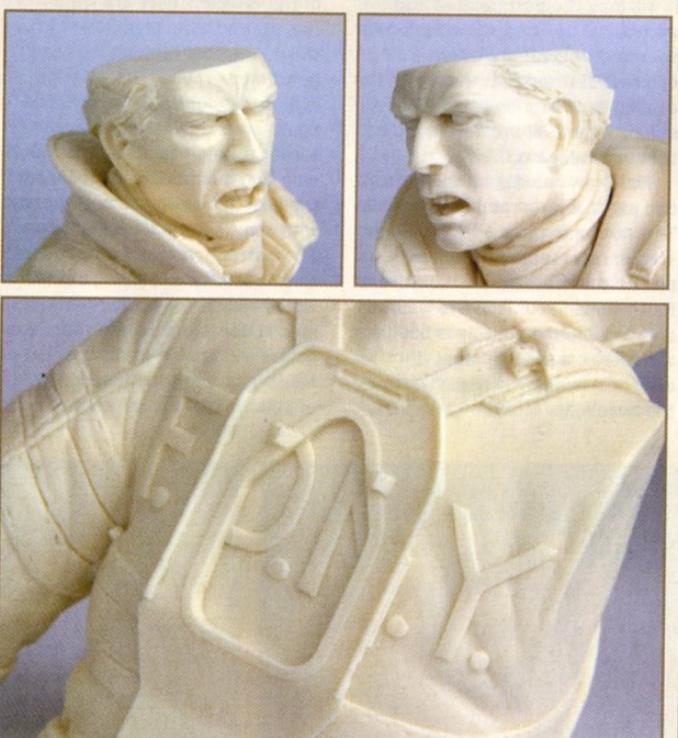
1:9 FDNY FIREMAN BUST ITEM NO.0911B

Although this bust is not technically a military figure, in my eyes the job the New York fire fighters did on 9/11 and all fire fighters do around the world every day, risking their lives to save others, requires exactly the same courage and selfless dedication as those who have to go into battle. Therefore, I think a bust depicting a member of the Fire Department, New York deserves all the publicity it can get.

Beautifully sculpted by Alan Ball and superbly cast by Andy Meyers, the figure includes the decals for the SCBA equipment and even small pre-cu parts in clear Perspex for the helmet visor. The full colour A4 instruction sheet offers clear information as to where the parts go, including the different diameters of fuse wire needed for the braided steel air-lines of the breathing apparatus. The photos also double up as an excellent painting guide and reference for anyone unsure of the correct colours a FDNY fire fighter's uniform should be.

For something a little different and a great subject to paint, I cannot recommend this figure enough, superb!

Available from www.specialopsmodels.com
10/10 - The Editor



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AF35159 £22.99

SCALE 1:35



1:72

SDKFZ 234/3 URO707 £6.50



AF35125 £12.99

SCALE 1:35



1:72

OPEL BLITZ (Kfz 305) URO710 £7.99



AF35540 £29.99

SCALE 1:35



1:72

PAK-40 URO711 £6.50



AF35103 £21.99

SCALE 1:35



1:72

OPEL MAULTIER SDKFZ 3 URO715 £7.99

SCALE 1:72



1:35

15CM S.FH18 FIELD HOWITZER TM02304 £16.99



1:35

PT-76B LIGHT AMPHIBIOUS TANK TM00381 £19.99



1:35

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1:35

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1:72

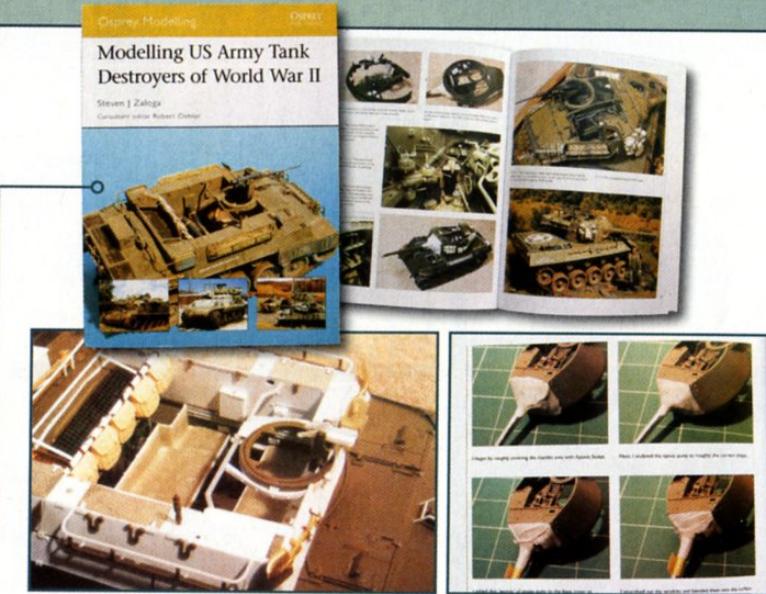
GERMAN PZKPFV KV-1 756(R) TM07265 £6.99



1:72

GERMAN PZKPFV KV-2 754(R) TM07266 £6.99

Book Reviews



MODELLING US ARMY TANK DESTROYERS OF WWII

STEVEN J ZALOGA • OSPREY MODELLING • ISBN 1-84176-799-9

Not a new book, but well worth publicising, is Steven Zaloga's US Tank Destroyers by Osprey. The book takes the now familiar format of a brief introduction and then moves on to cover the many kits and detail sets, both current and out of production. It then tackles the modelling subjects, finishing with a brief summary of recommended reading and places of interest to visit the surviving examples.

Within the 82 pages you are shown how to build, detail, stow and crew a number of vehicles in 1:35 and 1:72 scales; the detail and reference can be used to great effect on 1:48 kits as well. The author starts with the M10, and quickly shows the modeller the discrepancies within the Academy, AFV Club and old Tamiya kits, and then guides you through the pitfalls to show you what is achievable. The other subjects include an M10 in 1:72 from Extratech/Extrapack, an M18 from AFV Club in 1:35 and finishes off with the conversion of an AFV Club M18 in 1:35 to an M39 Armoured Utility Vehicle. There is also the added bonus of a KMC conversion of the Revell 105mm to a 3 inch field gun with crew.

You cannot fail to be impressed by the level of detail within this book. Even if you only build one Allied tank buster, I recommend you get a copy of this book to help and guide you.

Available from www.ospreypublishing.com

Ian McGonagle



MODELLING THE US ARMY M4 (76MM) SHERMAN MEDIUM TANK

STEVEN J ZALOGA • OSPREY MODELLING • ISBN 978-1-84603-120-3

The Osprey Modelling range has fast become a familiar publication for the modeller; indeed their collection of books has helped and inspired modellers like myself to try something different. The popularity of the Osprey Modelling series is without question and thanks to renowned modellers such as Steve Zaloga offering to share their skills and knowledge, they really make these a great source of tips and techniques, no matter what the subject.

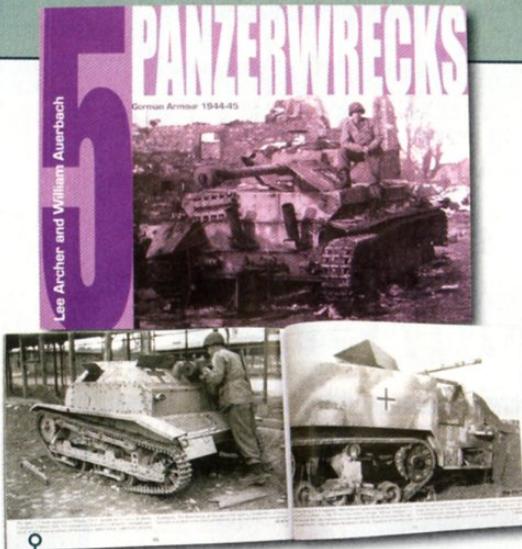
Expanding on the subject of the Sherman, Steven Zaloga's book gives you an insight into the detail that can be heaped on to the 76mm armed Sherman. Also included in the 82 pages of the book is a brief 'quick and dirty' historical guide.

The builds include an in-depth Operation Cobra M4A1, a sandbagged HVSS M4A3 and a late ETO M4A3E2 Jumbo all in 1:35th. In 1:48th scale there is two Shermans, a 76mm and a 17 pounder Firefly. All of Steven's Shermans have an amazing amount of detail, with wide and differing media added to a basic kit. Steven shows you what can be done and how, all you have to do is buy the book and take in the master class from a proven Sherman modeller. Even the fact that Steven uses home grown products to dress his subject is not that much of a problem, as the text and photographs give brand names and a quick search on the internet shows availability.

This book helps cover a part of the vast modelling subject that is the Sherman and the author shows you how he does it. A must for any Allied armour library.

Available from www.ospreypublishing.com

Ian McGonagle



PANZERWRECKS VOLUME 5 GERMAN ARMOUR 1944-45

LEE ARCHER AND WILLIAM AUERBACH

SOFTBACK 97 PAGES • ISBN 978-095559401-4

Well, as the title says, we're up to volume 5 already! Still in the same landscape format as before, with accurate detailed captions and large clear pictures, mostly shown one to a page.

This time the authors have chosen to re-visit Panzerwrecks 1 and the first 27 pages are dedicated to additional images of some of the vehicles featured therein. Also included are some new shots of the I/Pz.Rgt.26 Panther, the Tiger II from s.H.Pz.Abt.507 and some more shots of a wrecked Sturmpanzer 'Brumbar', being rather harshly treated by a US Army bulldozer!

The rest of the book returns to bringing us previously unpublished pictures of a vast array of machinery used by the German armed forces. From a lowly captured T.K.S, whose picture is a perfect study of what scratched, chipped paint should look like, right up to the enormous 'Maus' whose abandoned hull and turret photos cover seven pages.

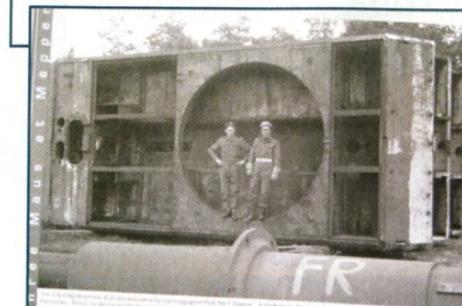
Also worthy of note, are the stills from a Russian newsreel, whilst the pictures are a little grainy, it gives a clear indication of the absolute destruction of the German Army, with vehicles littering the battlefield as far as the eye can see.

Thoroughly recommended.

My thanks to Lee Archer for the review sample.

Available from www.panzerwrecks.com

Darren Thompson



AFV SUPER DETAIL PHOTO BOOK VOL.7

PZ.KPFW. II AUSF. F

MODEL ART CO. LTD • ASDP-007 • SOFTBOUND. 96 PAGES

As the title implies this is volume 7 in the series and spotlights the Panzer II Ausf F. The book is written in both Japanese and English text, has colour plates for seven vehicles, a 1:35 scale drawing plus some useful wartime photographs. A very well detailed history is provided and although it's translated from Japanese, the text is good (apart from the odd spelling mistake) and quite readable.

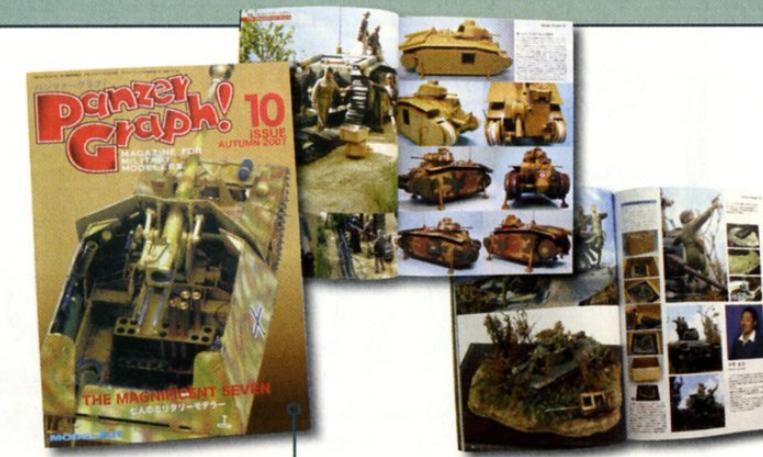
The main focus of the book however is the complete (and I mean complete) walkaround of existing Panzer IIs and the majority of pictures are from Ausf F vehicles at The Tank Museum, Bovington (UK), and a private collection (unfortunately not stated where). The other tanks are in Russia; Lenino (a rather forlorn and rusty Ausf C) and Kubinka (Ausf F).

The pictures are well reproduced, captioned where necessary and logically divided up into groups e.g. front hull, fenders, turret exterior etc., but as well as being treated to a thorough study of the outside, the book has a lot of interior shots also including the engine. A nice feature is that all the pictures are colour coded to show which museum/collection they came from.

All in all this an excellent reference book and comes highly recommended, especially if you want to go to town detailing Dragon's new kit of the Panzer II inside and out.

Available from www.bookworldws.com

Andy King



PANZER GRAPH! ISSUE 10 AUTUMN 2007

MODEL ART • 132 PAGE SOFT BACK

Number 10 in this Japanese language modelling magazine features a varied and fascinating selection of modelling projects. It includes a broken down French Char B, a super detailed Heller VAB 6x6 armoured car and Rhodes Williams' mad Land Wesser Schlepper diorama (we featured the LWS build in a previous issue of MMJ). Also included is a stunning scratchbuilt Marder I on a Lorraine Schlepper chassis along with Dragon's Sd.Kfz.251/17 and a FineMolds Shinhoto type 97 Chi-Ha tank, set in an atmospheric diorama.

My personal favourite is the article featuring an AAV7-A1 that some guy has built onto a mini bulldozer chassis which he can get in and drive around (I want one!) As I mentioned before this is a

Japanese language magazine, but thankfully all of the major articles have been translated into English in the back of the magazine.

This, combined with the hundreds of photos that this issue contains, certainly makes it a worthwhile purchase.

Available from www.bookworldws.com

The Editor



SHERMAN CRAB FLAIL TANK

NEW VANGUARD 139

AUTHOR: DAVID FLETCHER, ILLUSTRATED: TONY BRYAN

OSPREY PUBLISHING • ISBN 978-1-84603-084-0

The latest release from Osprey covers the specialist subject of the Flail tank through the early war years to post war use. This soft back book of 48 pages sticks to the format of the New Vanguard range with battlefield photographs, workshop drawings, highly detailed colour illustrations and factual descriptions of the development and use in battle included.

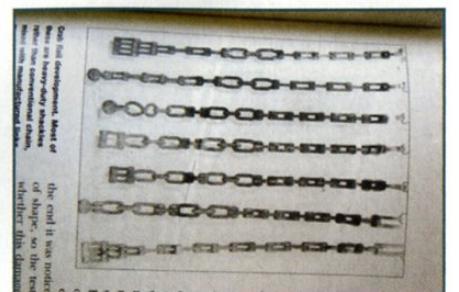
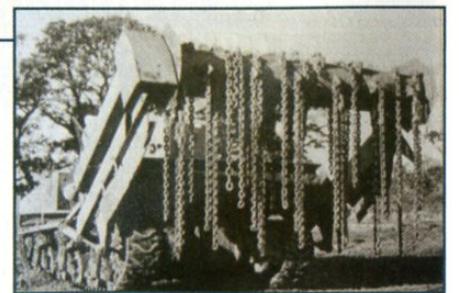
David Fletcher covers the story of the Flail tank, covering the Matilda, Valentine, Grant, Churchill and of course the Sherman. Pictures and text go hand in hand to describe the use of the flail.

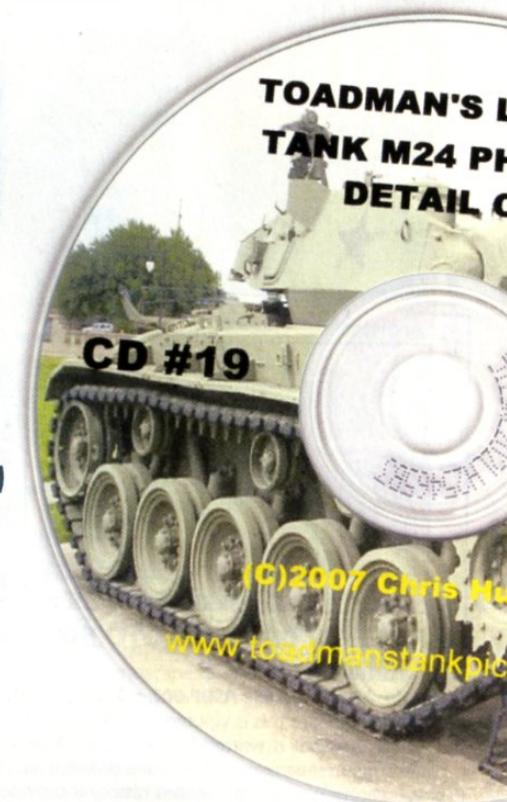
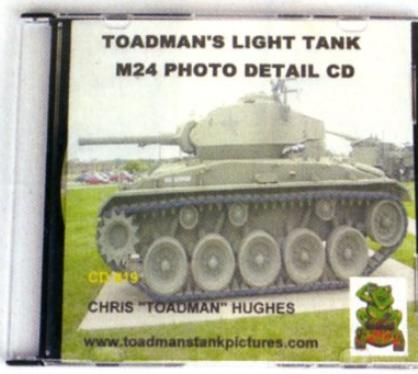
Colour illustrations play a big part in making this publication, but for me the title is more than a little misleading, it should be titled The Crab Flail Tank, as the majority of the book looks at alternative flails with only a small section devoted to the Sherman.

To sum it up, this is a book you should have in your collection, but for me, not the 'must have' for a Shermanaholic wanting to use it as the basis to build the Sherman Crab.

Available from www.ospreypublishing.com

Ian McGonagle





TOADMAN'S 90-MM GUN TANK M47 PATTON PHOTO DETAIL CD (CD#18) TOADMAN'S LIGHT TANK M24 PHOTO DETAIL CD (CD#19) CHRIS 'TOADMAN' HUGHES

These CDs produced by Chris 'Toadman' Hughes offer a one stop photo reference walk-around of the chosen subject. Many of the photos taken are of the vehicles from the amazing Military Vehicle Technology Foundation, Portola Valley, in California.

Chris really has an eye for the details we modellers crave and I can't think of anything he has missed in these comprehensive CDs. The Chaffee disc contains some 282 photos of the exterior and interior, whereas the Patton CD contained some 296 images.

As a foot note, a small slip is included to remind Mac users, (such as myself, it's a publishing thing!) that the auto run feature will not work and so offers some simple instructions to proceed, a thoughtful touch for computer novices.

Available from www.thetoadmantankpictures.com
The Editor



THE SU-57 SELF-PROPELLED GUN

GRZEGORZ OKONSKI • TOPSHOTS 45

KAGERO PUBLICATIONS • ISBN 978-83-60445-74-7

This A5 sized, soft-backed, compact, full colour book comes from the Polish publisher Kagero. 44 Pages fully illustrate a SU-57 displayed in the Polish Arms Museum in Kolobrzeg. In a plain mid-grey paint scheme, the vehicle looks a little worse for being outside for what looks like many years. Despite this, the pictures are clear and show detail such as the casting numbers and manufacturers name on the bumper mounted winch. All angles are covered by the author, including the 57mm gun with its breach open, close quarter shots of the exterior detail showing the construction methods used to bring together the component parts of the hull. There are also plenty of photos covering all of the brackets, tie-downs and stowage locations. You are also given, within the book, a double-sided poster with the museum vehicle on one side and a wartime photograph on the other.

Although the subject is a little the worse for wear, the way the author has shown the detail will help when modelling the 57mm SPG. Combined with a small amount of text in English and Polish this book is a small gem, especially for Soviet modellers.

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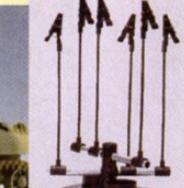
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The Footman James

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The 1st Footman James South West Model Engineering,
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Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

12th - 13th April 2008
9.30am - 5.30pm

The South West Model Engineering, Model Making and Hobbies Exhibition will be held over two days. The event will feature trade and club stands, an on site boating lake and railway, display's of model airplanes, cars, military models and figures with many more being arranged.

This event is not limited to just model engineering, we are inviting all areas of model making to participate, this event is a must on any enthusiast's calendar.

The show is mainly an indoor event with outdoor activities, including the on site model railway and boating lake. Car parking is free and there is plenty of on-site catering.

Entrance to the show will be £8 adults and £7 concessions.
Accompanied children under 16 are free of charge.

For further information on trade or club stands please contact Nadine Lingard at Nadine@nwe.co.uk for general enquiries email debbieb@nwe.co.uk or ring 0117 907 1000 or fax 0117 907 1001.

Model Military International has five pairs of tickets to give away for the first five correct answers to this simple question:

Which model show did the Editor attend in the January issue of MMI?

Answers to: Footman James Competition, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire LU6 1QX
Entries limited to one per household/person.
All entries must be received by 15th February 2008

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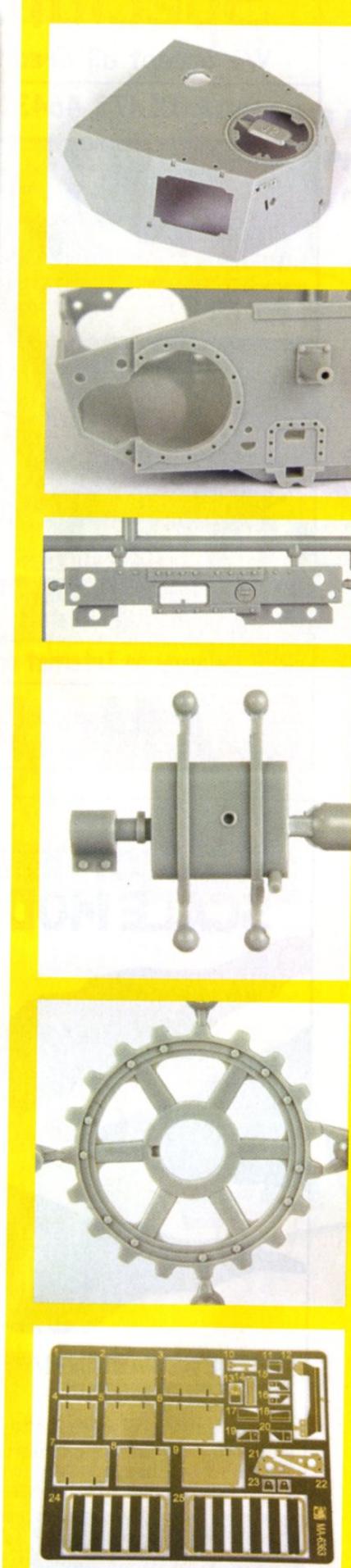
A CORKER FROM KHARKOV

Andrew Willis Takes a look at Dragon's latest and possibly greatest Panzer IV.

Firstly do not let the LAH (Liestandarte Adolf Hitler) at Kharkov in the title put you off. The excellent Cartograf decal sheet contains five options, only two of which are LAH Kharkov in winter white camouflage. There is a Totenkopf at Kharkov in Panzer Grey, a Grossdeutschland in Russia, also in winter white, and finally a 1.Pz.Div in Greece sporting an overall dark yellow paint scheme. This kit shares an awful lot of parts with its earlier released sister, the Panzer IV F2(G). If the modeller had wanted to make a G out of the earlier kit they would have had to fill the vision ports on each side of the turret. In this kit, Dragon provides a new turret without the aforementioned vision ports. With these two models it

should be possible to cover all the subtle changes for early to mid Gs. I would also not rule out Dragon producing a late G with one piece commander's cupola, bolt on armour, schurzen and L48 gun. If you look carefully at both sets of instructions you will notice part H41 is unused in both kits. This is the cooling water filter cover found on late model H and J - the Panzer IV series is not finished yet.

I think that there is a possible case to be made for this and the earlier F2(G) to be ranked as the best Dragon kits produced to date. Now let me try and back up this rather grand statement! I can find nothing missing from this kit; all parts seem the correct shape and dimension, the fit is good and the detail is superb. When you look at the list of acknowledgments for technical assistance on the front page of the instruction sheet it becomes clear why this model is so good: Tom Cockle, Gary Edmondson and Notger Schlegenthal have obviously provided top notch assistance. Dragon's attention to detail is so good that the modeller gets several different options at many stages of this model. There



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more on www.eduard.com

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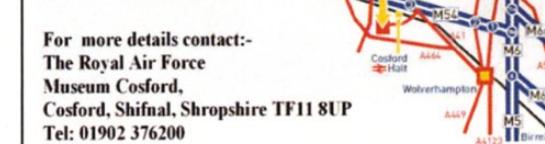
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TECH GUIDES, KEEP 'EM COMIN'

I have just returned to modelling after a break of over 30 years and was advised to take a look at your magazine by a very kind modeller Dave Williams who has been very helpful and to be fair I jumped in at the deep end and took out a subscription and after reading this months copy (my first) it appears to be a good decision on my part! A very informative read and what I liked was the last page and the tip for applying mud onto wheels. And now for questions, could you please supply a list of the other published articles relating to model making techniques, especially regarding helping people like myself who are looking for help and advice when it comes to basic model making without the PE and special effects!

As you know kits and the tools etc., are not cheap so I try to learn about the basics of kit making without building a soul destroying disaster. Can you help?

Kind regards Bob Court

Ed says: Without sounding evasive and not wanting to list other published articles, I can proudly state that every issue of MMI to date has offered various tips, techniques, step by steps and many issues have featured comprehensive

RECOMMENDED READING

THE NORDIC EDGE MODEL GALLERY VOL. 2

CARFORA GRAFISK FORM & FÖRLAG
AVAILABLE FROM WWW.HISTOREX-AGENTS.COM

For those of you who couldn't make it to last year's Euro Militaire, you can savour some of the stunning models on display from those very talented modellers from Northern Europe. Vol 1 of The Nordic Edge, as the title stated was a 'gallery' featuring a selection of photos and accompanying text of some finished works from some of Northern Europe's most talented modellers. Vol. 1 was a great book, but Vol. 2 is even better offering construction photos and step by step painting guides, so we can all learn the ways of the Scandinavians.

This 145 page soft back is packed full of simply stunning models from the incredible 'blown up' Trumpeter BR-52 Locomotive diorama to the tiny vignette featuring three beautifully painted Danish volunteers of the SS Division, Nordland during the battle of Kurland Peninsula 1944. This book truly is an inspiration for all military modellers, no matter of ability.



RANDOM REFERENCE!

BUCKETS AND CANS

I found this interesting photo of a beautifully restored WC-57 Dodge Command Car in St Mere Eglise, Normandy. Of particular interest is the antenna mount featuring the black plastic coated spring and the brown bakelite type insulator. I'm not sure if the brass parts would be left un-painted on a war time vehicle? Also of note is the water jerry can identifiable by the larger circular 'flip top' lid and the collapsible canvas buckets neatly stowed using the jerry can's retaining strap. This is exactly how the canvas buckets supplied in the Tamiya Allied Stowage set are supposed to be used.



'Tech Guides' form the likes of **Mig Jimenez, Fraser Grey and Marcus Nicholls**. All of these esteemed modellers have also contributed some excellent articles on building and painting models. Apart from ordering back issues of MMI, I can thoroughly recommend the FAQ book by **Mig Jimenez** or the series of **Model Master class DVDs** from **Compendium Films** featuring **TMMI's Editor, Marcus Nicholls**; these **DVDs** along with the **FAQ** will be a great aide memoire for years to come.

ONE OF OUR TANKS IS MISSING

Paul Middleton from MAFVA forwarded this amusing but very sad e-mail of an incident that happened back in December. This occurrence shows the sign of the times we live in and the lengths some people will go to, to make money!

"Thieves cash in on stolen WWII German Panzer tank from Sofia, Bulgaria (AP). Police have arrested two Germans and a Bulgarian military officer accused of stealing a World War II-era German tank and attempting to steal another, authorities said Wednesday. Military prosecutor Hristo Tinev said the three suspects were caught on Dec. 13 while attempting to steal an MK IV Panzer tank in southern Bulgaria. The three suspects are accused of hiring local people to dig the

tanks out. Authorities said they dismantled one of the tanks and transported it out of the country. According to experts quoted by the 24 Hours daily newspaper, the tanks were unfit for combat, but valued on the antiquities market at up to €50,000 (US\$72,000)."

Ed says: Well if someone offers you some knock off DVDs down the pub and happens to mention they have a tank for sale with only two careful owners and low mileage, odds are the Bulgarian police may be interested. I checked the latest Auto Trader and €50,000 seems to be the right price for a low mileage Panzer IV with full service history and zimmerit fitted as standard.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

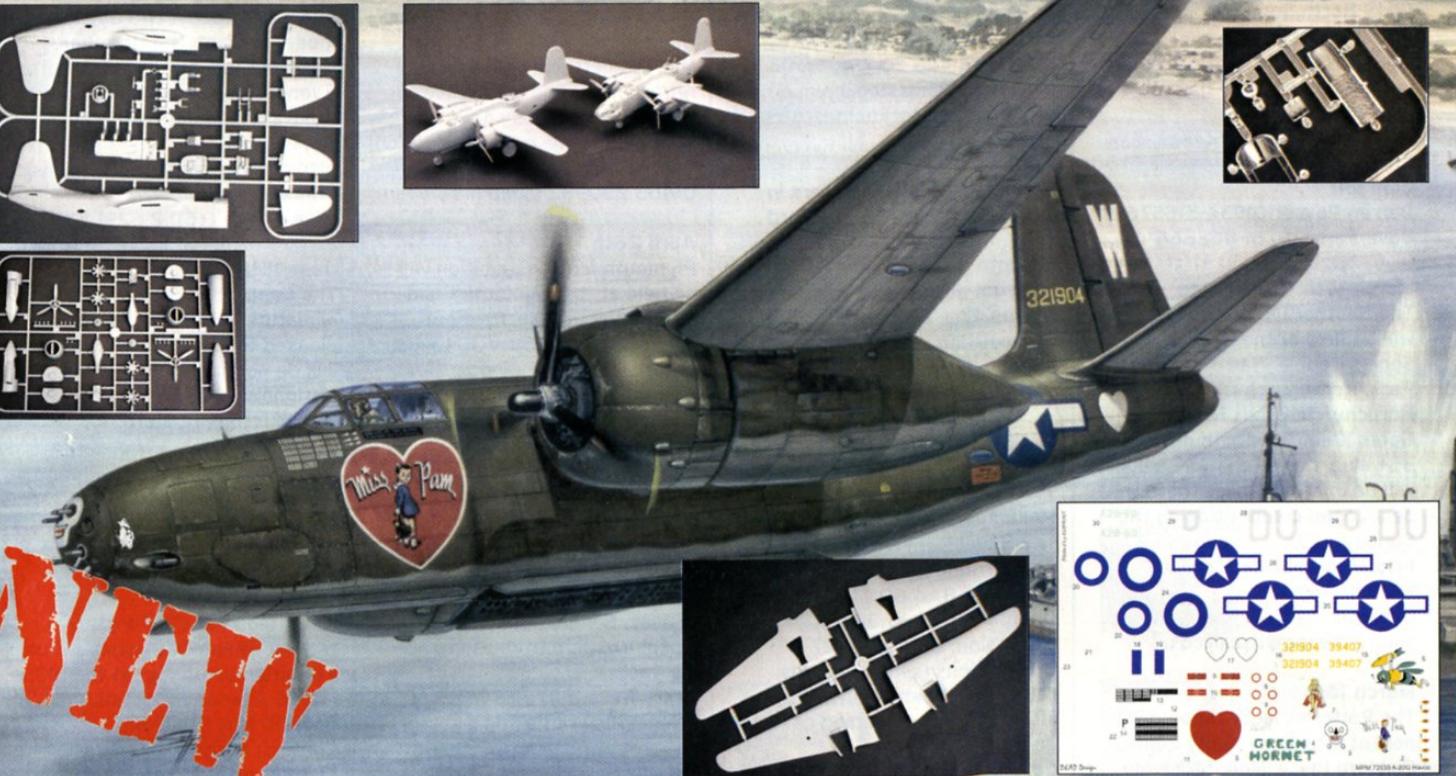
ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

It's that time of year again, when myself and the other editors from ADH Publishing make the annual pilgrimage to the Nuremberg Toy Fair and I must say I can't wait to see what will be new for this year. As I'm writing this, there are still three weeks to go before the show actually opens on the 7th of February, but already Trumpeter have announced what they will be releasing this year, and it is certainly an impressive list. If all the other manufacturers are going to have as many new models planned for 2008, we are surely in store for another bumper year. Look for a full report on my return.

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy



A-20G HAVOC
"SOUTH WEST PACIFIC WARRIOR"



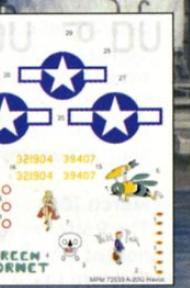












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March 15th
 IPMS North Somerset will be holding their annual model show at Locking Castle Campus, Weston-Super-Mare BS24 7DX. Open: 10am - 5pm. Admission: Adults £2.00 Children £1.00/Concessions £1.50 Contact: Darren Poyer 01934-516576 or Dave Perry 01761-462864

March 15th - 16th
 The Southern Expo returns and will be held at the Hornchurch Sports Centre, Harrow Lodge Park, Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1ET. Open: 10am-5pm both days. 35+ club stands and 35+ traders will be in attendance. There will be an open competition on the Sunday.

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/southernexpo>
 Contact: southernexpo@tiscali.co.uk

March 16th
 The Potteries Model Show will be held at Meir Community Centre, Pickford Place, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7DY. Open: 10am. There will be club displays, traders, an open competition and refreshments on site. Contact:

Alan Ewart 01782 388892 or Mick Copestake 01782 392353 email: ewaa1253@aol.com

March 28th - 31st
 The 5th annual Malta Society of Model Makers show will be on this weekend. www.maltamodellers.org

April 5th - 6th
 The annual Swedish Nationals will be held at Skytteholmsskolan, Ankdammsgatan 14-16, Solna. Open for members as well as non

-IPMS members. 12.00-16.00 Sat, 10.00-16.00 Sun. Contact: show manager Rickard Malmborg +46 70 782 65 03 ipmsopen@ipmsstockholm.org, or www.ipmsstockholm.org/open

April 6th
 Shropshire Scale Modellers in association with RAF Cosford present the Shropshire Model Show to be held at the RAF Museum at Cosford. Trade stands, Club displays and Open Competition. Free admission and parking. Contact: Gary Stevens gary473@btinternet.com

April 12th - 13th
 The Footman James 1st South West Model Engineering, Model Making and Hobbies Exhibition. The Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN.

Open: 9.30am - 5.30pm Admission: £8 Adults, £7 Concessions (senior citizens, registered disabled and full time students). Accompanied children under 16 are free. Car Parking is FREE Book on-line at www.nwe.co.uk and save £2 per ticket using special offer code MODPR8

April 13th
 Moveleo Leopoldsburg will be presenting Model Force '08 at the "St-Michiel" school complex, Diestersteenweg 13, in the centre of Leopoldsburg, Belgium. Open: 10.00 - 17.00

Featuring club displays, traders, kid's corner, an open modelling contest and food and refreshments. Entrance is free. Information: www.moveleo.be or modelforce@moveleo.be

April 20th
 East Midlands Model Show 2008.

The Leisure Centre, Hinkley, Leics. £4.00 adults, £2.50 Children and OAPs. Open: 10am - 4.30pm Many traders and club displays, refreshments and bar available, free carparking, easy disabled access and large open competition. Contact: Simon Mepstead 01455 230952 (shop hrs).

April 26th
 Plymouth Model Exhibition will be held at the Plymouth Guild Hall, Royal Parade, Plymouth. Open: 10 - 4.30. Over 30 Clubs and Traders attending. Refreshments available all day. Contact:

Dave Watson 01752 518287 spotandjoe@blueyonder.co.uk

May 3rd
 Southdowns Model Group annual show and open competition. The Parish Hall, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8AJ.

Open: 10.30am to 4.00pm. Contact:

Craig Wells 01273 279635 craig.wells4@ntlworld.com

May 3rd - 4th
 The Illawarra Plastic modellers Association (IPMA) will be holding the 2008 Illawarra Scale Model Expo incorporating the NSW Scale Model Competition. This will be held as usual at the Koonawarra Community Centre, Fowlers Road Dapto (South of Wollongong) N.S.W. Australia.

Information: <http://ipma.hobbyvista.com/> Contact: Paul Boger 0423108993 sea.eagle@optusnet.com.au

May 4th
 5th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show will be held at Festhalle, Wilnsdorf, Germany. info@modellbaufreunde-siegen.de www.modellbaufreunde-siegen.de

May 24th - 25th
 Scale ACT '08. A two day model show at The Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Avenue, Narrabundah, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), AUSTRALIA Contact: Simon Mepstead <http://www.actsms.asn.au> Contact: Mike Grieve (+61) 2 6291 1900

June 15th
 The Cambridge Branch of the Miniature AFV Association are pleased to announce that they will be hosting the MAFVA Nationals 2008 at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Open: 10.00am

Information: www.mafva.net or send a large SSAE to the organiser, Paul Middleton, 39 The Leas, Baldock, Herts, SG7 6HZ.

June 28th
 Amay Modèles Club organizes its 17th Modelling Day (competition, exhibition and swap) at the IPES Huy, 6 Avenue Delchambre, B-4500 Huy (Belgium).

Contact: Michel Calluy, 13 Thier du Moulin, B-4530 Villers-le-Bouillet (B) Tel: 00 32 85231086 michel.calluy@skynet.be <http://www.amaymodelesclub.org>

June 28th - 29th
 The Model Expo 2008 and the Australian Open Plastic and Scale Modelling Championships will be held at the Entertainment Centre, Sandown Racecourse, Princes Highway, Springvale, Melbourne, Victoria. www.modelexpo.com.au expoinfo@modelexpo.com.au

Contact: Ian Vale (03) 9873 4256



DON'T MISS A THING....



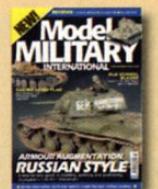
Issue 1

- Dragon I:35 Sherman Firefly
- TECHGUIDE - Resin kits
- Verlinden's 200mm Fallschirmjäger bust
- Vietnam war vignette
- Trumpeter I:35 CH-47A Chinook



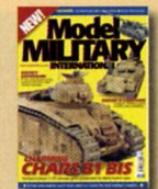
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- Dragon Vorpanzer IV Preview
- Soviet SU/22 Tank Destroyer
- Tamiya Churchill MkVII
- A wrecked and recovered Raupenschlepper Ost
- Tamiya updated Krupp Protze
- Challenger 2 Reference



Issue 3

- Sicilian M7 diorama (part 1)
- Italeri M60 Blazer
- Trumpeter KV-I
- Alan Hobbies Flakpanzer 38T
- Dragon Hunting Tiger
- Academy M2A2 QF preview
- Tamiya Char B1 Bis
- Italeri re-released M47 Patton preview



Issue 4

- Skybox I:48 Tiger
- Scratch built Soviet 2A3 Atomic Cannon
- M7 reference
- Eduard Early Hetzer
- Dragon Early Panther
- Italeri re-released M47 Patton preview



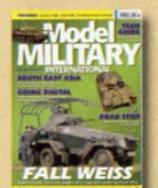
Issue 5

- Tamiya's I:48 Cromwell
- Italeri LVT (part 1)
- Cromwell Models I:72 Israeli M60 Batash
- TECHGUIDE - building a budget spray booth
- 2006 MAFVA show report
- Tamiya Sd.Kfz Ambulance Conversion
- The British Army's Stormer HVM reference



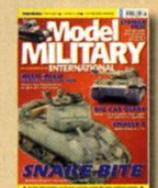
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- Model Victoria resin Centauro armoured car
- Dragon Sd.Kfz 251
- Tamiya AAV7A1 UWGS
- AAV7-I reference
- Dragon I:72 M4A3 (76mm) Sherman
- Italeri LVT 4 (part 2)
- Diamond-T reference
- TECHGUIDE - worn paint effect



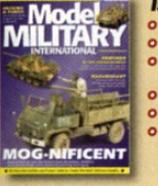
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- Italeri I:48 Chinook preview
- Italeri Sd.Kfz 232 6-rad
- AFV Club Centurion Mk5/I
- Centurion reference
- Tamiya early Panther G
- The US Army's latest camouflage uniform reference
- MinArt T-72 light tank
- Tristar Flak Panzer IA
- Dragon Operation Cobra M4A1 (76mm) and more...



Issue 8

- Dragon I:35 M1A1 Abrams preview
- Cromwell Models Challenger 2
- Dragon Flak 88mm preview
- The US Army's Stryker ICV reference
- Tamiya I:1/35 Tiger I
- Tristar Flak Panzer IA
- Dragon Operation Cobra M4A1 (76mm) and more...



Issue 9

- Dragon Sd.Kfz 234/4 Pakwagen
- Tamiya I:48 Panther G
- Building and painting the UNIMOG 5404
- Full size AS90 reference
- Dragon I:35 Flakpanzer I



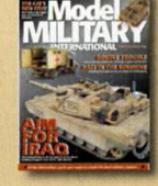
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- Amazing I:72 Berlin diorama
- Tamiya I:48 VW
- Phil Stutinskas' Euro winning Panzer IV
- Eastern Express KV-14
- Heavy Humvee full size reference
- Mig Productions' Hi-Lux pick-up truck



Issue 11

- P&J's 150mm SS Grenadier figure
- Tamiya's T-55 with mine plow
- Detailing Dragon's Ferdinand
- Quarter Scale M26 Pershing
- Sherman 105mm conversion
- Modern US Airborne Artillery



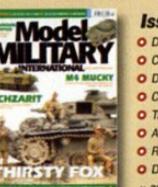
Issue 12

- Building Dragon's Marder II
- A tale of two of Tamiya SU-85s
- Dragon's M1A1 Abrams main battle tank
- Applying zimmerit to AFV Club's Late Tiger I
- Tamiya Quad and 25 Pounder
- I:48 Accurate Armour Austin K2 Ambulance



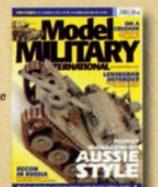
Issue 13

- HobbyBoss Danish Leopard 2 A5
- Jaguar's 200mm US Ranger
- Op. Telic Warrior diorama Part I
- Trumpeter's captured KV-I
- Afghan scrapyard diorama
- M198 towed howitzer reference
- Sovereign 2000 Humber Mk I armoured car
- Dragon Panzer IV D



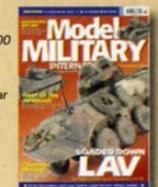
Issue 14

- Dragon Sd.Kfz 234 Puma
- Cromwell Models I:72 IDF Achzarit APC
- Dragon Panzer III in a desert setting
- Cyber-Hobby I:35 Kübelwagen ambulance
- Tamiya I:48 Sherman M4
- AH-64 Apache reference
- Resicast ex DD Sherman
- Dragon M51 Isherman Smart Kit



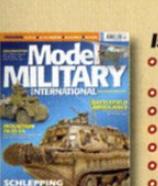
Issue 15

- Dragon 'Premium Edition' Soviet SU-100
- Tamiya I:48 Crusader
- British anti-tank gun reference
- Resicast Ex Duplex Drive M4A1 Sherman
- Dragon K.Pz. St.I/VA 'Dicker Max'
- Trumpeter LAV-25
- Revell NBC detection vehicle conversion
- RPM FT-17
- Canadian Leopard C2 reference



Issue 16

- Fire Molds I:35 Chi-He Japanese tank
- Dragon initial Tiger I
- Resicast Ex Duplex Drive M4A1 Sherman
- Dragon K.Pz. St.I/VA 'Dicker Max'
- Trumpeter LAV-25
- Revell NBC detection vehicle conversion
- RPM FT-17
- Canadian Leopard C2 reference



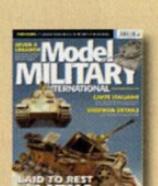
Issue 17

- Accurate Armour's I:35 SAS IIO Land Rover
- Bronco's I:35 L-4 US Army Spotter plane
- Cromwell's Combat 72 Merkava 4
- Dragon's latest Panzer IV
- Italeri's AB-42 armoured car
- MAFVA Nationals
- Holden's ambulance Jeep conversion
- Dragon's M4 Mortar Carrier



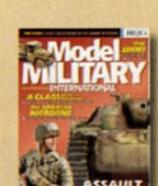
Issue 18

- Italeri's latest Amtrac the LVT 2
- Academy's I:48 CH-46 Sea Knight
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- Dragon's Sd.Kfz 251/7
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- Tamiya's new Renault UE Tractor
- Dragon's T-34/76 in a winter setting



Issue 19

- Academy small scale Dragon Wagon
- Academy IM487 7A Conversion
- Dragon I:35 M1A2 SEP Abrams
- M4A2 76mm resin conversion
- I:15 Panther Ausf A
- Cyber-Hobby T-34/76 STZ
- Lion Roar M2 mega-etched brass detail set
- Sherman reference photos



Issue 20

- Dragon Kingtiger with zimmerit
- AFV Club I:48 late Tiger I diorama
- Italeri MH-60 Blackhawk
- Dragon 10.5cm armed Stug III
- Step by step guide - Tamiya I:48 GMC
- GMC



CHALLY, THE RETURN

As a keen visitor to the Bovington Tank Museum, I like to time my visits to coincide with their 'Tanks in Action' displays. If you have been reading this magazine from its early days you may have seen the first part of my Challenger 2 walk-around. The initial photographs were taken in August 2005, and just as the Challenger was finishing its display the heavens opened and soaked

man and machine. It was quite a sight to see the Challenger's exhaust steaming away as the rain hit the incredibly hot exhaust. Unfortunately, a by-product of the rain was that the Challenger was very slippery, and therefore was off limits to any member of the public or keen photographer. This explains why the first part was a walk-round only.

The last 'Tanks in Action' display for 2007 was on 25th October

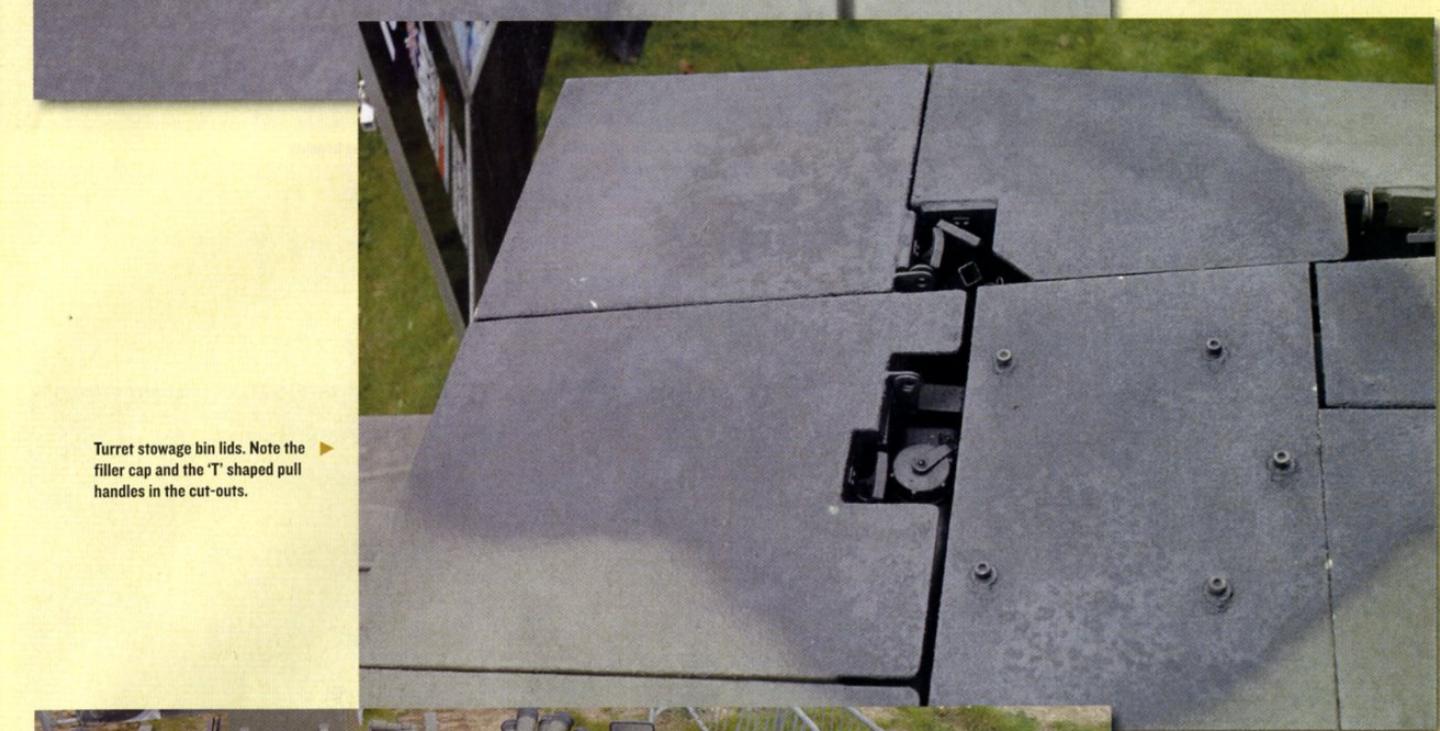
Andy Willis concludes his walk around of the British Army's Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank.

and as this also coincided with the temporary closure of the museum for the construction of new buildings, I made sure I was there. I had felt that the museum staff would want to go out with a bang and would be putting on a good last display. There was a pleasant surprise though: the British Army were also putting on a recruitment display and had brought along a Challenger 2. As I hurried to get my camera ready it started to spit

with rain and I could not believe my bad luck; but I still rushed to the Challenger crew and thankfully was allowed up on to the tank and was able to get my missing photographs. In fact I would like to say a big thank-you to the Challenger crew for taking great care and due diligence in making sure every member of the public climbed on the tank safely and without incident. ■



Right hand exhaust outlet. Note the rubber bump strip which prevents the barrel striking the engine deck when the turret is traversed to the rear.



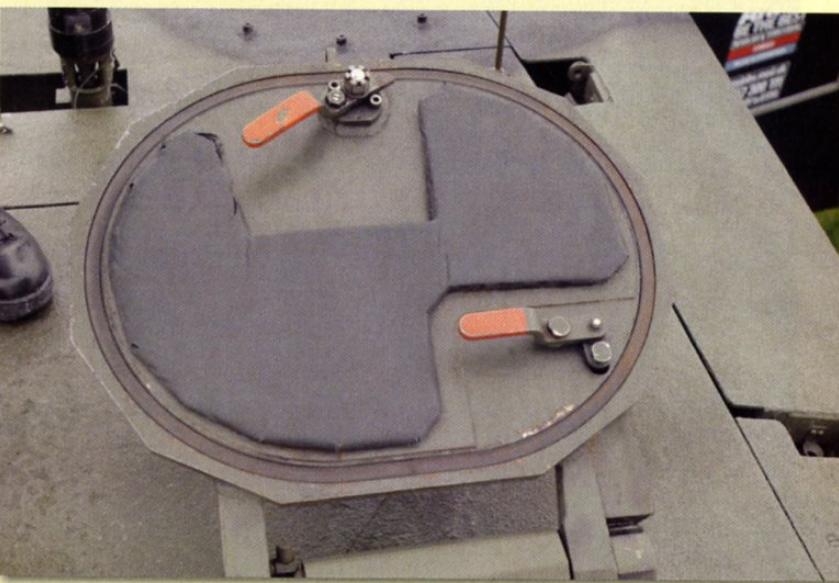
Turret stowage bin lids. Note the filler cap and the 'T' shaped pull handles in the cut-outs.



Commander's cupola, even though this tank is in immaculate condition, there is still wear showing around the hatch rim.



References - Challenger 2 part 2



▲ Loaders hatch detail, of interest here are the red painted locking handles and the rubber sealing ring around the edge of the hatch.

▲ Loader's General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG). Note the motorcycle style handle bar grip used to help traverse the machine gun around the hatch.



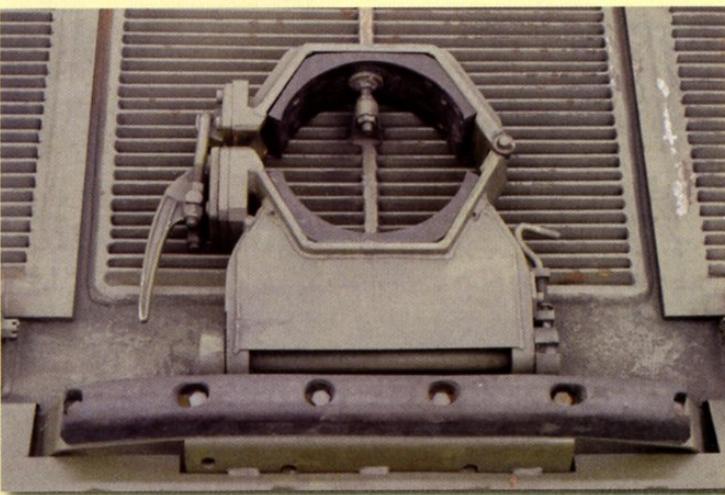
▲ Right hand side of GPMG, the cable through the trigger guard is just for security while the tank is on public display (there would be a lot of paper work if someone walked off with it!)



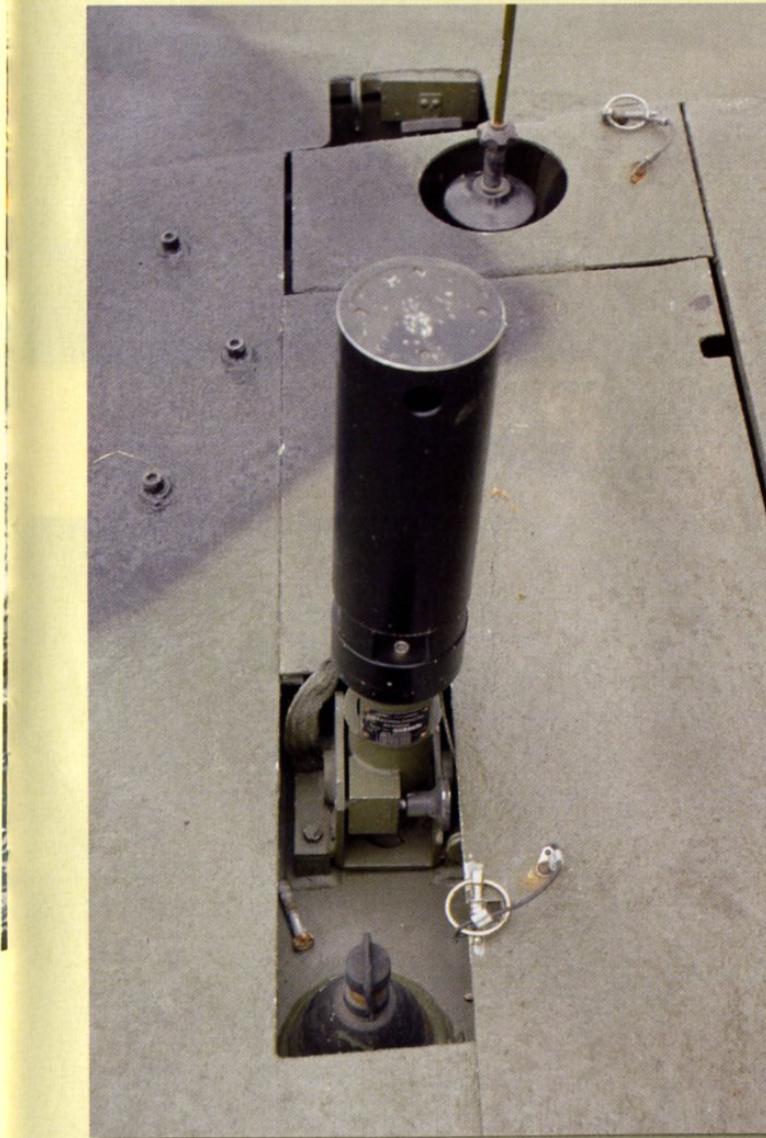
▲ Commander's independent sight unit. Note the washer nozzle in front of the sight optics window.



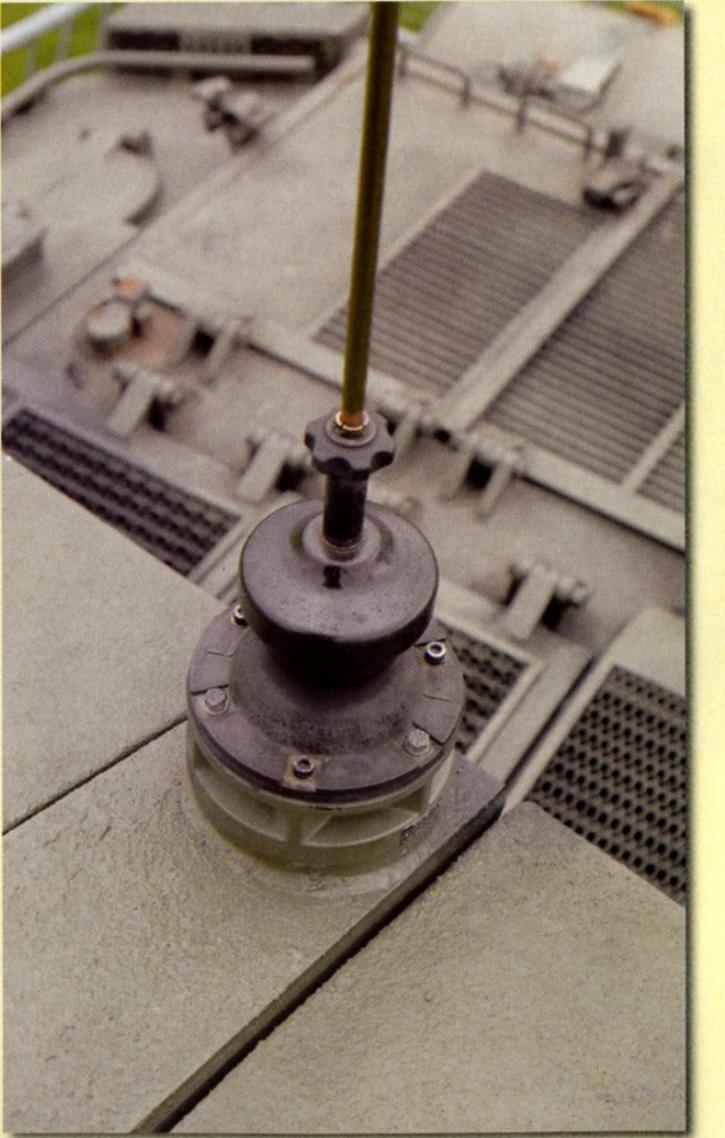
▲ Engine deck details, the rear louvre panels each have two lifting handles, on the Tamiya Challenger 2 these are moulded solid blocks.



▲ Close-up of the gun travel-lock. Note the paint chips and rust on the grilles.



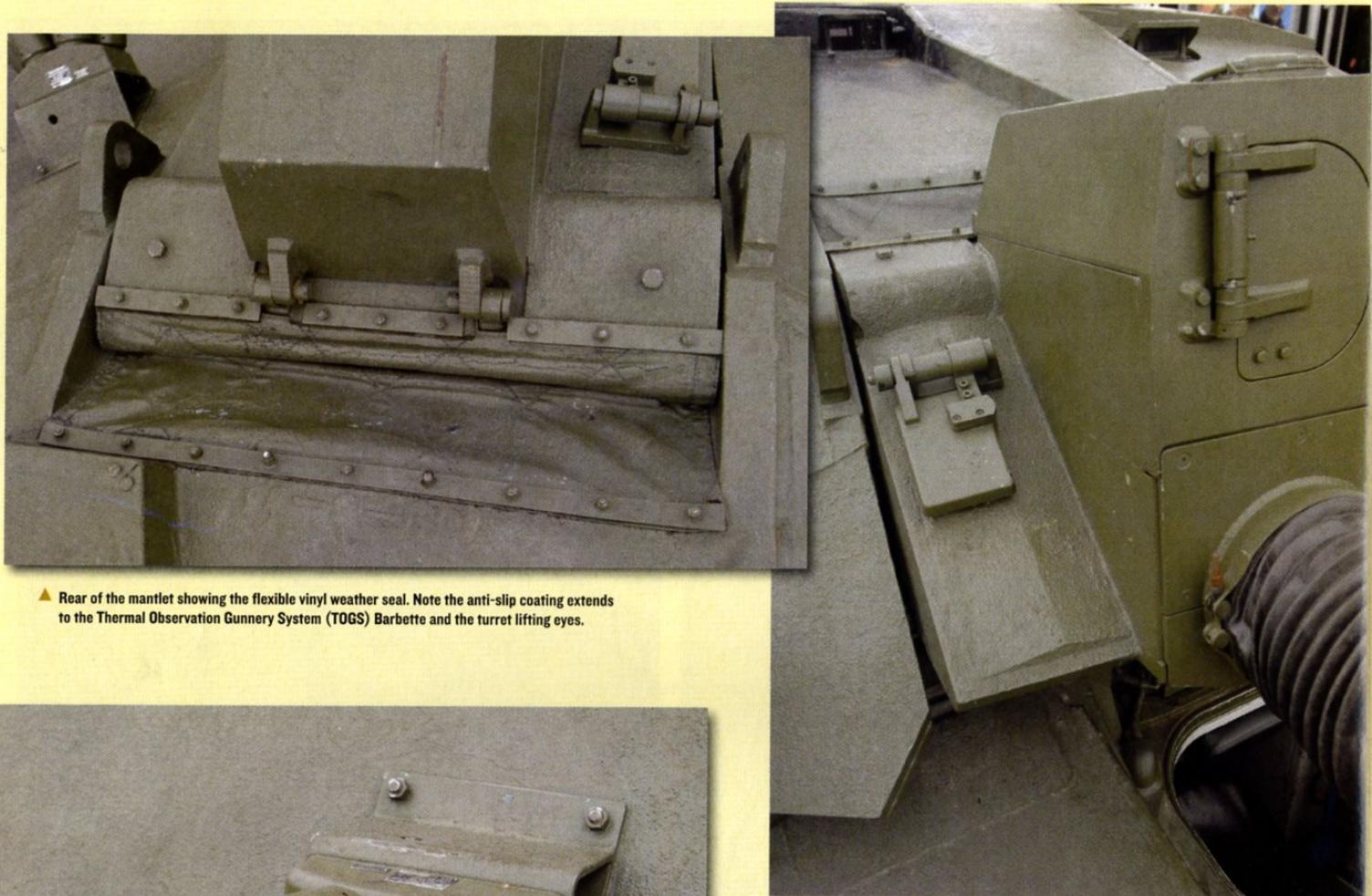
▲ Turret mounted meteorological sensor. This sensor measures wind and ambient temperature, this along with other factors such as barrel wear and the type of round selected are all taken into account by the ballistic computer for the maximum chance of a first round hit.



▲ Close-up of one of the turret aerial mounts. Note the un-painted copper portion of the antenna where it makes contact with the mount.



References - Challenger 2 part 2



▲ Rear of the mantlet showing the flexible vinyl weather seal. Note the anti-slip coating extends to the Thermal Observation Gunnery System (TOGS) barbette and the turret lifting eyes.



▲ Close-up of the TOGS barbette.

▲ Right hand smoke discharger unit. In the Tamiya kit the rubber caps have been depicted as being pointed, only in the later MIA2 kit have they been copied authentically with distinctive concave shape.



Close-up of one of the two fire extinguishers mounted just behind the front fenders. Note the paint chipping on the fender hinges.



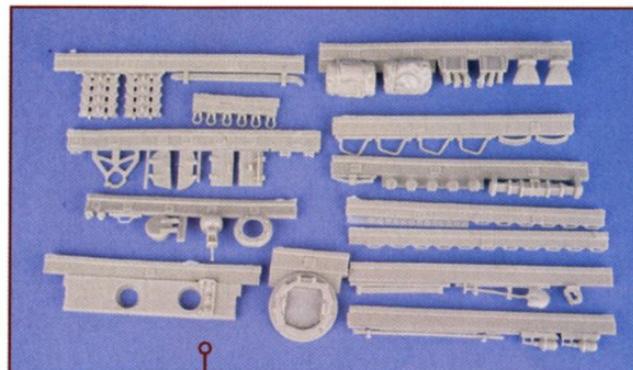
Left hand view of mantlet featuring the muzzle of the co-ax 7.62mm chain gun. Note the wire-loop style handle on the top of the TOGS barbette.



◀ The commander's panoramic viewer incorporates a laser range finder. Note the red, laser resistant coating on the periscopes. This prevents the crew from being blinded by laser 'dazzle' type weapons.



▼ Each of the commander's periscopes is fitted with a washer and wiper. Note the two black sleeved locking handles and brown leather handle for closing the hatch.



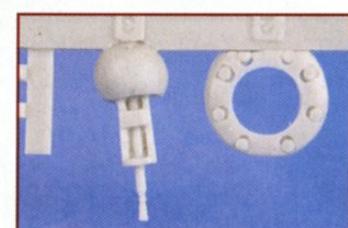
ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 COMET UPDATE SET ITEM NO. A105

I started the Bronco Comet quite a while ago but ground to a halt as the further I got into the build the more disappointed I became with it and in the end put it back in the box. Well, all is not lost, as Accurate Armour recently released a series of updates for it. The first is this general up-date set consisting of numerous crisply detailed resin parts, including a new driver's plate and Besa machine gun, commander's cupola and hatches, periscopes, tools and handles. The set even includes the post-war pattern 'fishtail' exhausts and turret mounted smoke dischargers.

A well thought out set with a decent set of simple to follow colour instructions that will undoubtedly help turn Bronco's mediocre kit into a damn fine model.

Available from www.accurate-armour.com
9.5/10 - The Editor

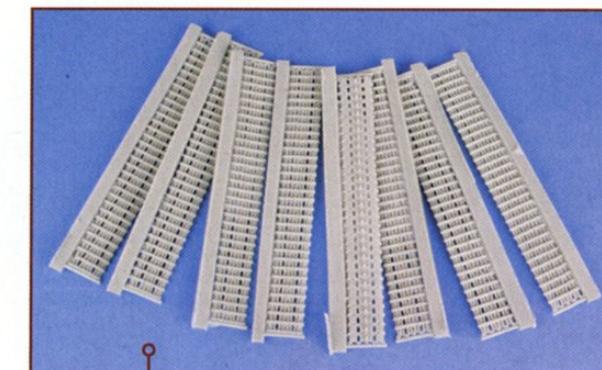
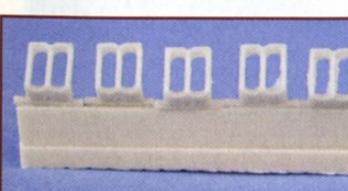
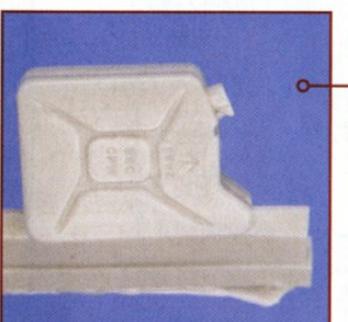


ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 MODERN BRITISH PATTERN JERRY CANS ITEM NO. A113

This set contains 12 UK 'modern' MoD style 'jerrycans', depicting cans produced after 1964. Up until now, the only option for stowing a modern British vehicle has been to use the WWII cans in the Italeri or Tamiya sets. These however are not correct as the Italeri cans have W.D. (War Department) stamped on them, where as the modern cans have an MoD (Ministry of Defence) arrow and a more up to date year stamp on them. Accurate Armour have also added the double weld seam around the circumference where the two halves of the can are joined during manufacture. Lastly they have thoughtfully included separate handles, filler spouts and caps, making these truly accurate.

Available from www.accurate-armour.com
10/10 - The Editor



ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 COMET REPLACEMENT RESIN TRACKS ITEM NO. T72

Our second Comet up-date from AA offers a set of resin 'Trackpax' which are designed to replace the one piece vinyl tracks supplied in the kit. The big advantage with resin tracks is that the resin used only requires a gentle application of heat to soften them and shape them around the running gear, especially along the top run to get the correct sag between the return rollers. Once the resin cools it retains its shape. Some care will be needed to remove the track sections from their carriers trimming to the correct length (see the BARV article in issue 1 for the best way to fit them).

Available from
www.accurate-armour.com
8.5/10 - The Editor

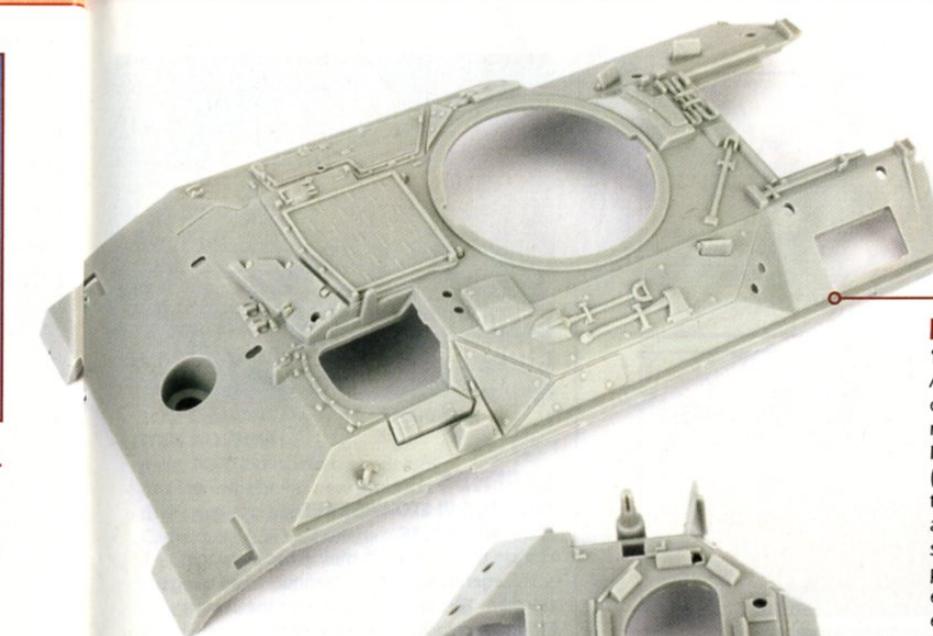


ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 COMET WHEEL SET ITEM NO. A107

Our third detail set from AA to improve the Bronco Comet is this set of resin road wheels designed to correct the kit wheels, which suffer from having incorrect central hubs as well as being the wrong width and pattern. The set also includes new return rollers featuring better detail as the kit parts look like a bit of an afterthought. Combined with the other sets from Accurate Armour, the Bronco Comet can be turned into a great model.

Available from
www.accurate-armour.com
9.5/10 - The Editor

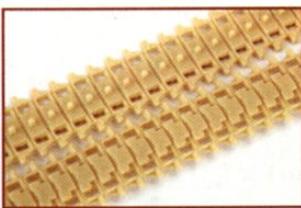
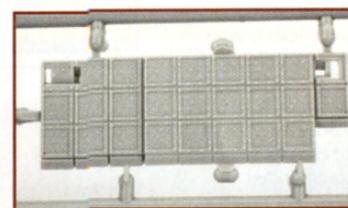


DRAGON

1:72 M3A2 ODS BRADLEY W/ERA ITEM NO. 7333

Another modern release from Dragon and this time, the latest version of the M3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle (CFV), the A2 which includes modifications made from lessons learned from the urban fighting in Iraq. Most prominent being the fitting of Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) to counter the threat from Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) and the armoured commanders station which consists of transparent blocks around the Commander's hatch which provides 360° protection against snipers. This kit comprises 132 plastic parts, 16 etched brass parts, 4 clear plastic parts and a set of the excellent DS100 tracks. As we have come to expect of Dragon all the parts are crisply moulded and highly detailed, the engine grille on the upper hull is particularly well done, the ERA panels are also well done as is the armoured commander's station although care will need to be taken with assembly. Only one marking option is supplied from 2nd Squadron 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment serving in Iraq, finished in overall sand. Highly recommended.

Available from all good model shops
10/10 - Jeff Adams



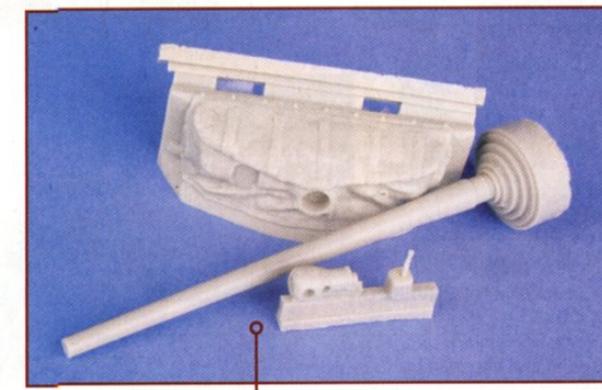
DES KIT

TITAN 30 TON TRAILER 1938/1940 ITEM NO. 35117

For those wanting to do something a little different with Tamiya's impressive Char B1 bis kit, why not put it onto this trailer from the French manufacturer, DES? Expertly cast in cream resin, this is a highly detailed replica of the 1938/40, 30 ton Titan trailer used by the French Army during the early war years. I'm not sure what would be used to tow the trailer and Char B however, even after trawling the internet I couldn't find a suitable towing vehicle in 1:35. This obviously could be a real downside when wanting to display the model as a complete unit.

Available from www.deskit.online.fr

9/10 - The Editor



ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 COMET MANTLET/GUN ITEM NO. A106

The final up-date set from AA for the Bronco Comet is a real 'must have' as it includes a new resin mantlet with dust cover, the shape has also been corrected to feature the proper spacing between the optics and weapon mountings, which is wrong on the Bronco kit. Secondly, and a new 17 pounder gun barrel with muzzle brake along with Besa co-ax machine gun are thrown in for good measure.

A simple to fit up-date which offers an easy way to correct the inaccurate mantlet and add the missing dust cover. Highly recommended.

Available from
www.accurate-armour.com
10/10 - The Editor





ITALERI

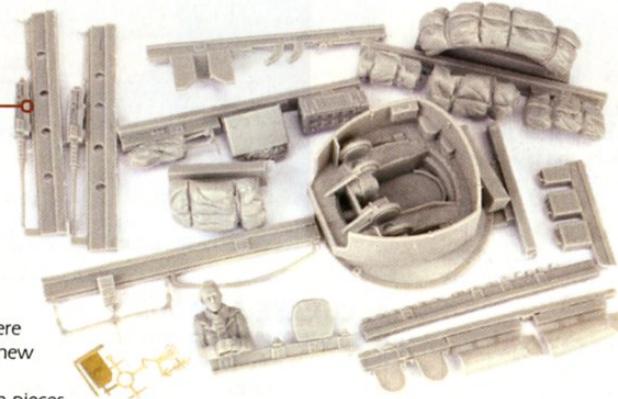
1:72 AUTOBLINDA AB41

ITEM NO. 7051

Another new tooling release from Italeri and another Italian vehicle, this time the Autoblinda AB41 Armoured Car. When it was first produced in 1939 the AB41 was considered cutting edge design. The Italeri kit consists of 68 plastic parts and all the parts are crisply moulded and well detailed. Highlights of this kit include separately moulded tools, nicely detailed jerry cans with moulded on holders, turret hatches which can be depicted open and there is an internal breech for the main gun and a coaxial machine gun. There are four marking options, two Italian examples finished in overall sand, one Italian and one German

version both finished in brown, green and sand. Overall another cracking kit from Italeri and an ideal companion for the AS42 Sahariana. Recommended. Available from all good model shops.

9/10 - Jeff Adams



ACCURATE ARMOUR

1:35 STAGHOUND AA CONVERSION

ITEM NO. CO89

Accurate Armour are quick off the mark to be the first aftermarket company to produce a set for the Bronco Staghound. Having already produced full resin kits of the various Staghound variants in the past, they were probably in the best position to create new sets for the plastic kit.

This conversion contains over forty resin pieces and a small etched brass sheet. The new turret ring requires some minor surgery to fit and it is nicely detailed with the appropriate casting numbers. The main turret tub is a beautifully cast single piece with most of the details already in place awaiting only the placement of the twin .50cal machine guns and their fittings.

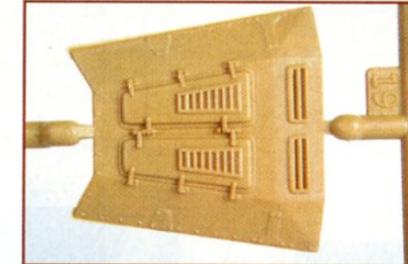
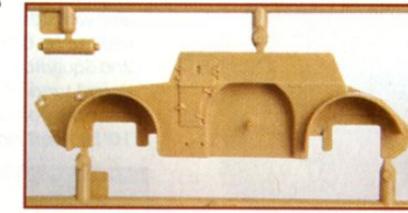
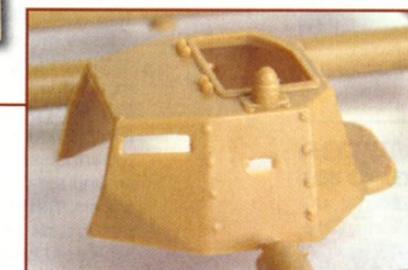
A nice half crew figure is included and sits within the turret tub. You will, however, have to use the figure as there is no empty seat provided and the turret tub base would need to be cut away and your own hull flooring and details constructed to fill in the space.

A set of various items of stowage to place over the kit's prominent mudguards is included as is a set of the late style exhaust covers. These items can also be bought separately.

My conversion set contained no air bubbles and all the parts were cleanly cast. Highly recommended.

Available from www.accurate-armour.com

8/10 - Graeme Carruthers



LEGENDS

1:35 STUG III STOWAGE SET

ITEM NO. LF1149

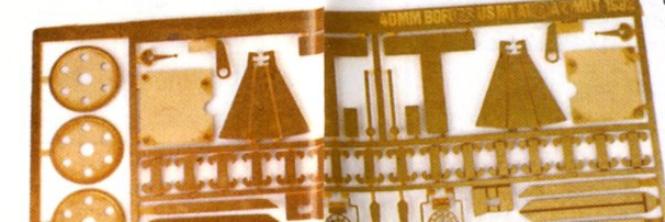
Hot on the heels of all their Allied stowage sets, Legends turn their attention to all things German. This set is designed for the Tamiya Stug III and includes a number of shaped resin drop in pieces, individual items and an etched sheet containing engine grills and the stowage rack itself.

One of the nicer touches is one of the stowage boxes with its lid half open and its contents cast in place and ready for a little careful painting to bring it to life.

Highly recommended.

Available from Friendship Models.

8/10 - Graeme Carruthers



ITALERI

1:72 CAMIONETTA AS42 SAHARIANA

ITEM NO. 7044

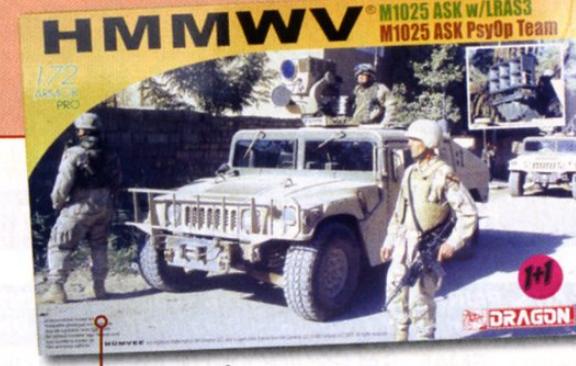
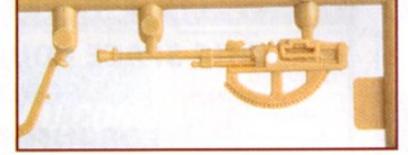
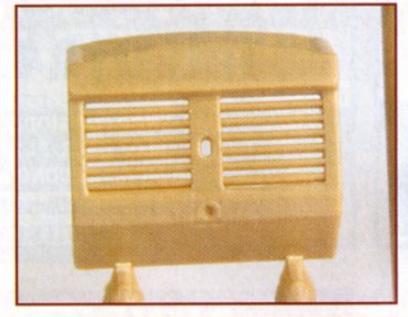
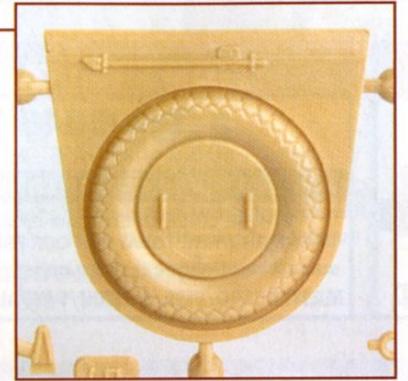
Italeri have interspersed re-releases of Esci kits with brand new products of their own, the latest of which is the Camionetta AS42 Sahariana (Desert Jeep) which was developed to counter the Jeep mounted SAS raids in North Africa. You may remember Kev Smith's excellent build feature of the 1:35 scale version in Issue 15 in which he depicted a German version used on the Eastern Front. This fairly simple kit consists of 71 plastic parts and a small clear plastic sheet for the windscreens, all the parts are crisply moulded and well detailed. Highlights of this kit include separately moulded tools, a choice of windscreens and a thirteen part 20mm main gun.

Two marking options are included, both Italian versions serving in Tunisia in 1943 and finished in overall sand. This is a great little kit of a fairly unusual vehicle.

Recommended.

Available from all good model shops.

8/10 - Jeff Adams



DRAGON

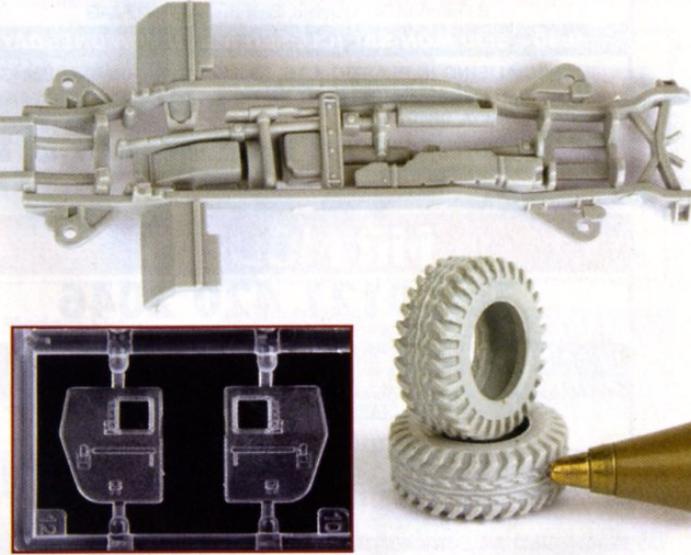
1:72 HMMV 1025 ASK W/LRRS3, 1025 ASK PSYOPS TEAM

ITEM NO. 7245

One of the latest releases from Dragon is a Modern Vehicle and is a twin kit of HMMVs, one fitted with LRAS3 Long Range Reconnaissance System, the other fitted with Loudspeakers for Psychological Operations (Psyops) both currently being used in Iraq. This kit consists of 176 plastic parts, 18 clear plastic parts, two etched brass parts and 8 DS100 tyres. This is an impressive number of parts considering the size of the finished vehicles. Highlights of this kit include the doors and upper hull moulded in clear plastic to help depict the windows more accurately although care will be have to be taken when painting, a choice of roof mounted weapons either M240 LMG, M2 HMG or M19 Grenade Launcher all fitted with gun shields. Incidentally Dragon supply you with four M240s, two M2s and two M19s. You also get a few other spares including a set of smoke dischargers with mounts, armoured door panels and a couple of CIP panels. One marking option is included for each vehicle, both serving in Iraq and both finished in overall sand. Overall these are a nice couple of kits of unusual vehicles. Highly recommended.

Available from all good model shops.

9/10 - Jeff Adams



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...and much more!

Next Issue
On sale March 6th 2007

MORTAR ON THE MOVE

Kev Smith reviews Dragon's 1:35 US
M4 81mm Mortar Carrier



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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The Last Post... Techniques

MAKING SIMPLE GROUNDWORK PART 2



The areas to receive the static grass flock were first painted with a PVA glue thinned with water. I have found that diluting the glue to the consistency of milk seems to work best.

The product chosen to simulate the first of the grass is Woodland Scenics Static Grass Flock, which comes in either large plastic containers or smaller poly bags.



The Woodland Scenics Flock has been liberally sprinkled over the base. This is best done in an upturned box lid to save waste.



The next job is to gently pat down the flock to help it adhere to the glue. The glue is then left to dry for about 30 mins before removing the excess.



The base is then tipped up on end and gently tapped so the excess flock drops off into the upturned box lid.



As you can see, quite a lot of flock falls off the base, but by working within a box lid means that the surplus isn't wasted and can be re-used.

Continuing from last month, where we got as far as adding the soil and tyre tracks, we will now cover the first of the various grasses that are going to be added. ■



1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
JAGDPANTHER Sd.Kfz.173
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• New upper hull w/interlocking detail

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• Gun mount specific to Early Jagdpanther

• Cast gun mount is refined w/3D detail

• Cast gun recess w/multiple curved surfaces finely recreated

• Sponson floors w/updated detail

• New storage bin on rear of fighting compartment

• Two types of rear storage bin included as options

• Gun mount specific to Early Jagdpanther

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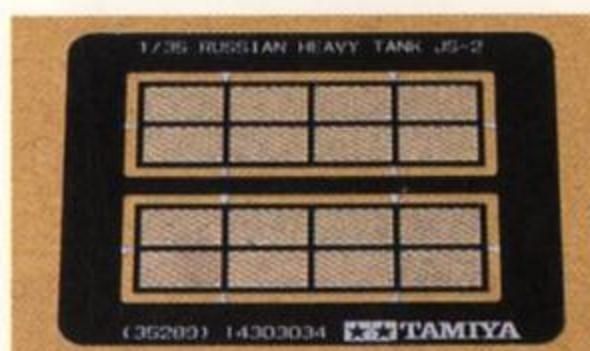


To the Gates of Berlin!

1/35 Russian Heavy Tank JS-2 Model 1944 ChKZ

Item 35289

This long-awaited assembly kit of the Russian heavy tank JS-2 is the first new WWII Russian tank model released in Tamiya's 1/35 Military Miniature Series in 11 years. Developed to counter the fearsome German Tiger I, the original JS-2 underwent several modifications to eventually result in what could be called the definitive version produced by Chelyabinsk Kirov Factory (ChKZ). Featuring hatch-less sloped front glacis and lengthened gun mantlet, these tanks were involved in the fierce urban fighting that occurred during the Battle of Berlin. Tamiya's model kit accurately reproduces the massive, imposing form of this heavy tank, complete with distinctive turret and long-barreled 122mm main gun. It is perfect for a side-by-side display with its main adversary, the Tiger I, or as part of a late WWII diorama.



Engine grilles are depicted using high-precision photo-etched parts for greater detail.



Two types of tracks, belt-type and assembly-type, are included for more modeling options.

Commander and loader figures feature accurate Rubashka-style field uniforms.



Markings included for Russian, Czech, and Polish units.

RUSSIAN HEAVY TANK JS-2 MODEL 1944 ChKZ

Create Dramatic Dioramas With These Russian Tanks and Figure Sets



1/35 Russian Heavy Tank JS3 Stalin
(35211)



1/35 Russian T34/76 1943
Production Model (35059)



1/35 Russian Army Assault Infantry
(35207)



1/35 Russian Army Tank Crew At Rest
(35214)



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SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN